VOL.
10
Fuuka
Kouji Seo

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86 GENIUS PRODUCER!

I SEE.

SO AKIRA MOGAMI CAME TO SEE YOU, TOO.

...YEAH.

HE TOLD ME ABOUT PRESIDENT AMAYA'S PAST...

AND HE TOLD ME FLAT-OUT...

YOUR VOICE IS FRAIL AND LIGHT.
IF YOU CONTINUE AS YOU ARE NOW, YOUR VOICE WON'T EVER STICK IN PEOPLE'S MINDS.
FRAIL...
AND LIGHT?
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT ICHIGO MOCHIZUKI WAS TALKING ABOUT.
WHEN SHE SAID MY VOICE DOESN'T STAY WITH PEOPLE.
BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS, IT'S MY VOICE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

MY SINGING IS ALL I HAVE, AND I FELT LIKE IT WAS BEING COMPLETELY REJECTED...
DRIP
DRIP
AND THEN I STARTED FEELING REALLY SCARED.

SORRY.
I KNOW TELLING YOU THIS WON'T DO ANY GOOD.
NO, I--
IT'S OKAY.

WHA...
WAIT --!
UH...

...

I NEVER SEE YOU LOOKING UNSURE AND CRYING LIKE THIS.
I MEAN...
HUH?
BUT I FEEL KINDA LUCKY THAT I GOT TO SEE SOMETHING RARE TONIGHT!
WHAT?!
?!
Y-YEAH, BUT TO BE TOLD MY VOICE IS FRAIL AND LIGHT...
PEOPLE KEEP TELLING ME I HAVE NO VISUAL APPEAL. IMAGINE HOW MUCH I'D LIKE TO CRY.
WHA --?!
IT'S KINDA FUNNY THAT YOU'D CRY OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO CONFIDENT UP ON THE STAGE.

"RIGHT NOW."
THAT'S ALL HE SAID.
HUH?
HISASHI-SAN SAID THE SAME THING TO ME, SO IT'S FINE.
I HAVE NO VISUAL APPEAL "RIGHT NOW."
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, MAYBE THAT JUST MEANS I CAN CHANGE.
I FELT LIKE THAT'S WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

SO WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW IS WORK OUR HARDEST AT WHAT WE CAN DO...
...AND, AS MUCH AS WE CAN, SHOW OUR LISTENERS WHAT'S IN OUR HEARTS.

I KNOW THAT!!
I ONLY CAME TO SEE YOUR MISERABLE FACE AFTER YOU GOT DISSED BY MOGAMI-SAN!!
I ONLY CRIED BECAUSE MY TEA TASTED SO GROSS!! DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!!
...

HUH?
...
SO?
I'M SORRY.
I...
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD TRY YOUR BEST AT?
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, EXACTLY?
WELL...
...
LET'S GO SEE THE GENIUS PRODUCER.
FOR STARTERS, TOMOR-ROW...

I SWEAR.
YOU HAD TO GO RUNNING YOUR MOUTH, DIDN'T YOU?
THEY PISSED ME OFF.
THEY JUST WANTED TO DO THEIR OWN THING, WITH NO CONCERN FOR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.
...
ARE YOU IN ANY POSITION TO SAY THAT?
CLATTER
カシャン
I-I TOOK RESPON-SIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS!!

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
AND I TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR MINE. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
...
I'LL MAKE SURE THEY TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.
IF THEY SCREW UP AT THE FESTIVAL WHERE THEY INSISTED ON APPEARING FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH REASONS...
I WON'T HEAR ANY WHINING OR EXCUSES.
BUT WHAT COMES NEXT IS THEIR JOB.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
...
IF THEY ENTER AS THEY ARE NOW, THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
THERE'S NO "IF" ABOUT IT.
HUH?
THEN MAYBE THEY'D HAVE A SLIGHTLY BETTER SHOT.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THEM SOME ADVICE, AS A GENIUS PRODUCER?
...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
PLEASE DON'T.
I SEE NO OBLIGATION TO DO THAT.
KA-CHAK
チャ
UM... DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

THEY'VE ALREADY COME CRYING, HUH?
FINE. SEND THEM IN.
HARUNA-SAN AND AOI-SAN ARE HERE.
THEY WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
...
...
UH...
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO SAY?
...

WE'RE REALLY...
...GRATEFUL TO YOU!
...HUH?
WE HADN'T THANKED YOU YET FOR ALL THAT YOU WENT THROUGH...
...TO GET US INTO THE FESTIVAL.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO IMPROVE WHERE WE NEED TO.
WE WON'T PUT ON A SHOW THAT'LL DISGRACE YOU!
YOU CAME HERE JUST TO SAY THAT?
...
CLENCH
7!!

...YES!
THAT'S ALL!!

SORRY TO INTRUDE!
KA-CHAK
カ//
チャ
WE'LL BE GOING NOW.

?!

FOR NOW, WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE...
THAT'S ALL.
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK FOR HER ADVICE?!
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT IT IS YOU SHOULD BE DOING?
SLAM
...

HOW WE CAN FIX...
...OUR WEAK POINTS.
ASK HER WHAT?
I WAS SURE YOU WERE GOING TO ASK HER.

AND ABOVE ALL, I COULDN'T DO SOMETHING THAT PATHETIC IN FRONT OF MOGAMI.
I'D LIKE TO, BUT I THINK THAT'S THE WRONG APPROACH.

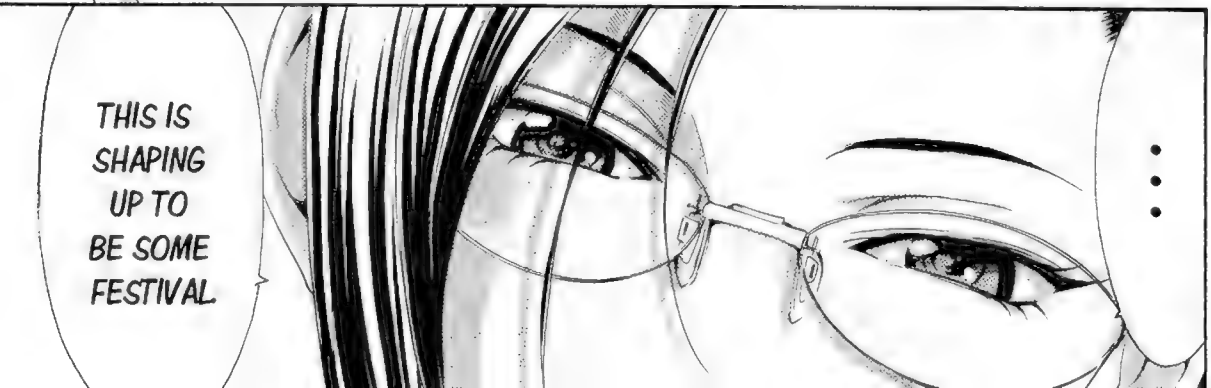
WANT TO TRY ASKING A HEDGEHOGS MEMBER, THEN?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT I THINK THEY WERE LEAVING TODAY TO TOUR OVERSEAS.
THEN MAYBE THE OWNER OF THAT PERFORMANCE SPACE YOU KNOW SO WELL!
NAH, I THINK HE'D JUST YELL AT ME.
HUH?!
カラオ
セントビル

...
フッ!! HEH

HFF
HAHH
TH-
THERE'S...
...SOME-THING I WANT TO GIVE YOU.
WAIT UP!!
WELL... HERE.
IS IT URGENT?
WHAT IS IT? WHY THE RUSH?
HUH?
TROT
MAKE SURE YOU DO THAT, OKAY?!
I THOUGHT HARD TO COME UP WITH IT!!
AH-- HINOKAMI-SAN?!
TO HELP MAKE UP FOR YOUR WEAK POINTS--
I CAME UP WITH SOME WAYS FOR YOU TO PRACTICE!!

IS...
IS THIS REALLY WISE?
FOLLOW-ING A NOVICE'S PRACTICE PLAN...
I THINK WE CAN TRUST THIS.
YOU THINK SO?
...
BECAUSE THIS...
...SMELLS LIKE THE PERFUME...
...THAT PRESIDENT AMAYA ALWAYS WEARS.

※ ADDITIONAL ARTISTS



THIS IS YUU HARUNA'S REHEARSAL PLAN.
LET'S SEE...
"THAT EMOTION THROWS OFF YOUR BASS PLAYING AND DISRUPTS YOUR HARMONY WITH THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE DRUMS. YOU NEED TO FIX THAT."
HUH?
OH, YEAH, THAT THING SINGERS DO WHEN THEY SING THE SAME SONG TOO MUCH.
"YOU GET REALLY EMOTIONAL (LOL) AROUND THE MIDDLE OF A SET AND START SINGING OFF-KEY."
THIS IS WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID TO DO?
THAT'S REALLY BASIC STUFF.
WHAT THE HECK?

STILL, I DON'T THINK JUST FIXING THIS-
-WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH HOW DULL HARUNA IS.
OH, RIGHT. GOTCHA.
WHAT A PAIN.
MINE!!
NO, NOT HER!
THAT'S MY OWN OPINION!

YEAH, RIGHT?!
HUH?
THE BASICS ARE THE MOST VITAL THING.

...
AS WRITTEN...
BUT GETTING "EMOTIONAL" IS USUALLY A PRODUCT OF THE PERFORMER'S EGO... THE LISTENERS USUALLY PREFER TO HEAR THE EMOTION AS WRITTEN.
THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS-

I DIDN'T KNOW MY SINGING WAS THAT FAR OFF.
HUH ?!
WELL-- ONLY WHEN YOU GET TOO WORKED UP!!
AAA PANIC PANIC
BUT I DO THINK A BASSIST SHOULD LISTEN TO THE DRUMS MORE...
IT FEELS LIKE THE KICK AND METER DON'T MATCH.

KICK ..?
METER.. DON'T MATCH?
TAP TAP TAP TAP
AAAA
OH.. "KICK" MEANS THE BASS DRUM, AND..
"METER" IS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN IT'S EIGHT BEATS PER MEASURE... UM..

IT SHOULD BE LIKE THIS.
KICK : ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
BASS : ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
KICK : ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
BASS : ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
BUT IT TURNS OUT LIKE THIS.
TO BE HONEST, I WONDERED ABOUT THAT, TOO.
IT CAN'T BE EASY FOR A BASSIST TO BE THE VOCALIST.
BUT YUU-KUN HAS A REALLY NICE VOICE, SO I FIGURED WE'D BE OKAY.

AS A PRO.
I GUESS IT'S IMPORTANT TO MASTER BASIC STUFF LIKE THAT.
BUT TO CONTINUE AS A PRO...
LET'S DO OUR BEST, YUU-SAN.
JUST KEEP REPEATING IT UNTIL IT'S INGRAINED IN YOU.
THERE ARE NO SHORT-CUTS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
SO... ALL I CAN REALLY DO IS PRACTICE, THEN?
WELL... I GUESS SO.
...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OKAY, LET'S PLAY THROUGH THIS ONCE.
IF I CATCH ANYTHING, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME FEEDBACK.
OKAY.

TREBLE MIDDLE BASS
AUDIO IN

I KEEP TELLING YOU, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST!
THE BASSIST ONLY NEEDS TO LISTEN TO THE DRUMS!!

UM... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET THAT ANGRY.
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, WASN'T IT?!

WHOA!!
I'M SORRY!

YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON JUST TRYING TO COMPLETE THE TASK AT HAND, YOU'RE NEGLECTING YOUR BASS PLAYING.
B-BUT--
WH-WHAT?
CAN I SUG-GEST SOME-THING, YUU-KUN?
NIKO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO PLAY THAT BASS, RIGHT?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY PLAYING LIKE THAT?
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, THEN FINE--BUT ARE YOU?
OKAY, ONE MORE TIME, THEN.
REPEAT IT UNTIL IT'S INGRAINED IN YOU.
RIGHT.
NO, I'M NOT.
I'M SORRY.
...

24H
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.
Y' KNOW... MIKASA'S SCARIER THAN I IMAGINED WHEN HE'S MAD.

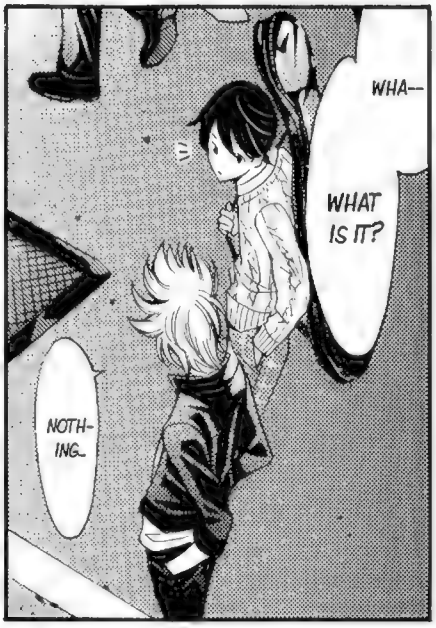
YOU CAN'T PRACTICE KEEPING THE METER WITHOUT THE DRUMMER, RIGHT?
IT'S FINE.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU STAY SO LATE, TOO.

HA HA.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST AS A PAIR OF RHYTHM SECTION FAILURES.
WELL, YASSAN YELLS AT ME ALL THE TIME, TOO.

BUT YOU KNOW...
I'M HAVING A LOT OF FUN IMPROVING MYSELF.

...
24H


WHA--
WHAT IS IT?
NOTH-ING...

ANYWAY, WANNA GET SOME-THING TO EAT?
THE OTHERS'LL PROBABLY EAT DINNER AT WORK.
OH-- SOUNDS GOOD. OKAY, YOUR TREAT, LEADER!
YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE FUUKA...
HA HA.

AND... THERE!

AAAAAH~
UUUUUH~

SQUIRM
LET'S SEE. TO PRACTICE SINGING FROM YOUR CHEST...
...LIE ON YOUR BACK AND PLACE A PILLOW UNDER YOUR LOWER TORSO...
...AND USE ABDOMINAL BREATHING TO PRODUCE VOCALS THAT REVERBERATE IN YOUR CHEST MUSCLES AND RIBS?

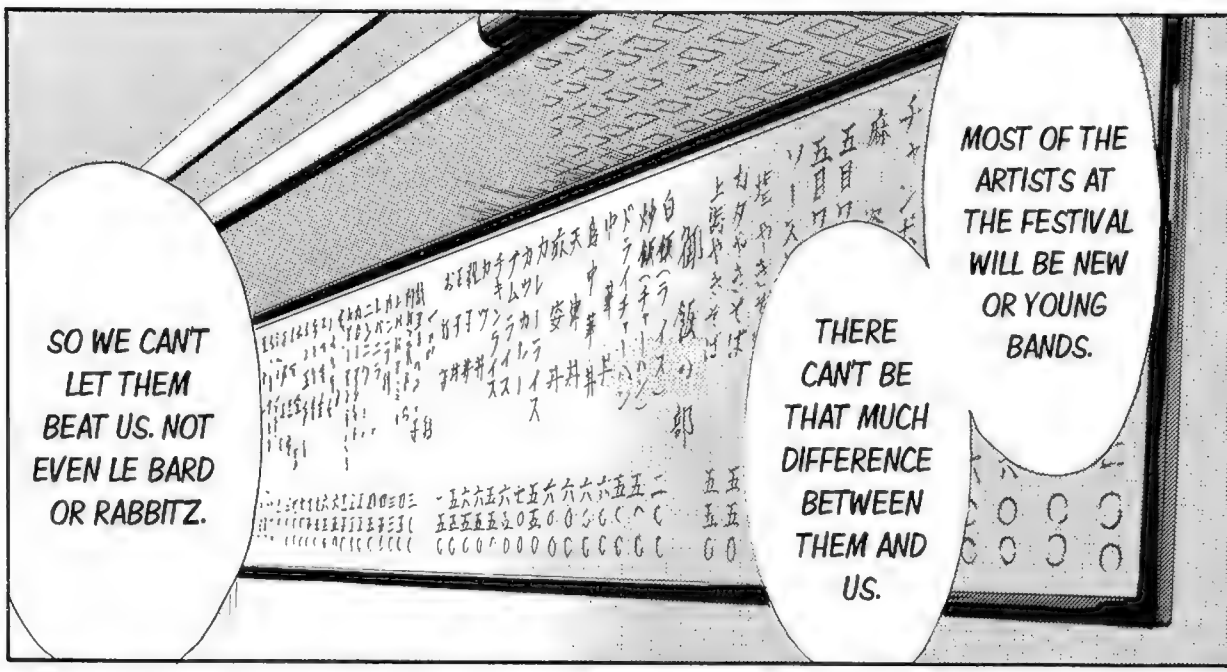
LURCH
IS THIS RIGHT?!
WILL THIS REALLY MAKE MY VOICE FULLER AND DEEPER?!
SILENCE...
...
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST THE PRESIDENT RIGHT NOW.
...
I'M SURE YUU-KUN...
...IS WORKING HARD WITH EVERYONE IN THE FALLEN MOON, TOO.
WAIT...
SPEAKING OF THE FALLEN MOON...

STILL, YOU KNOW...
YOU'VE MANNED UP A LOT LATELY.
HUH?
WHERE'D THIS COME FROM?

TH-THAT WAS --!!
SLURP
...YOU WERE ALWAYS CRYING WHILE I YELLED AT YOU BECAUSE YOU SUCKED AT THE BASS.
BACK WHEN FUUKA FIRST STARTED THIS BAND...

I'M NOT---
BUT NOW, EVEN AFTER IWAMI AND MIKASA YELLED AT YOU LIKE THAT, YOU STILL CALL IT "FUN."
SOMETIMES I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE OUR REAL LEADER.
I JUST...
...
I THINK THAT'S WHY THE OTHERS ARE TRYING SO HARD, TOO.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE TIME CRYING.
FUUKA LEFT THIS BAND TO US, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
I DON'T WANT EVERYONE AT THE FESTIVAL TO THINK WE'RE BORING.

YEAH. THAT'S TRUE.
WELL.


SO WE CAN'T LET THEM BEAT US. NOT EVEN LE BARD OR RABBITZ.
THERE CAN'T BE THAT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND US.
MOST OF THE ARTISTS AT THE FESTIVAL WILL BE NEW OR YOUNG BANDS.

HERE'S YOUR GYOZA.
OH. THANK YOU.
THANKS.

YEAH!!
ALL RIGHT!! LET'S SHOW 'EM!!
THE FALLEN MOON WILL GIVE THEM AN AWESOME SHOW!!

HUH? WHAT IS?
SURE IS WEIRD THOUGH, HUH?

IT'S A GREAT NAME FOR A BAND, RIGHT?
...I LIKE THE NAME.

THE "FALL MOON" THAT INSPIRED OUR BAND NAME ISN'T EVEN AROUND ANYMORE...
...YET THE BAND IS STILL GOING UNDER THAT NAME.

WOOOOO
LIVE
YEAH, SEEMS LIKE SHE LOVES JAPAN.
OH, THAT GIRL'S BACK AGAIN?

HEY, ISN'T THAT...
...?

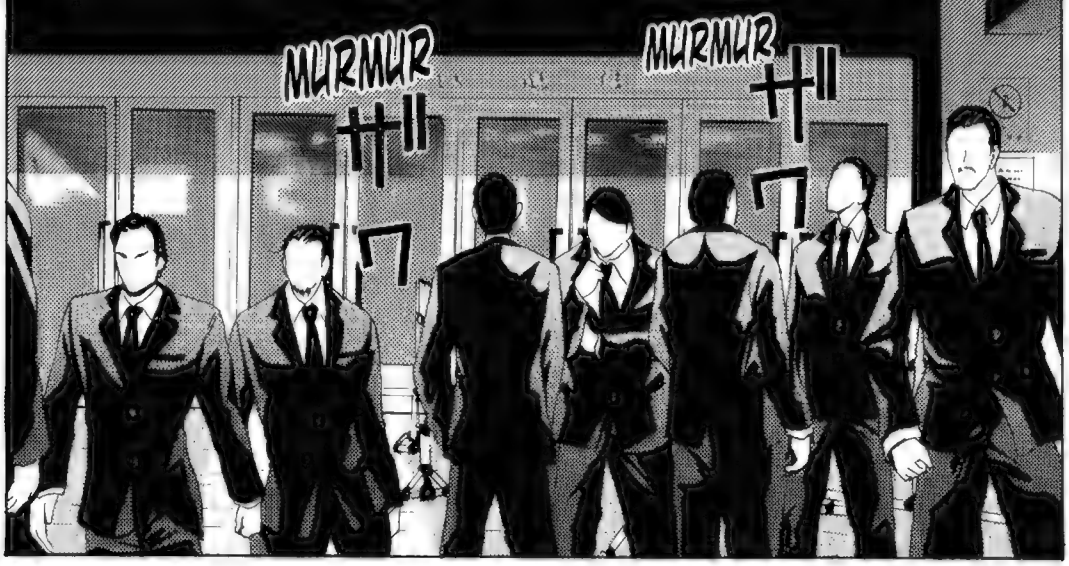
...THE GIRL WHO SHOWED UP WHEN WE PLAYED AT THE SCHOOL FAIR?
SHE TOOK OFF RIGHT AFTER THAT, BUT...

OH!! THERE SHE IS!!
THE WORLD'S TOP SINGING DIVA, SHELLEY HORNET!!

YOU THINK SO? SHE LOOKS A LOT LIKE HER, THOUGH.
NO WAY. COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.
AS IF THE WORLD'S TOP DIVA WOULD SHOW UP AT AN ITABASHI WARD SCHOOL FAIR.
LIVE
WOOOO
SHE'S HERE TO PROMOTE HER NEW ALBUM AND PERFORM HER FIFTH CONCERT IN JAPAN...
...BUT IT'S ALSO BEEN CONFIRMED THAT SHE'LL TAKE PART IN THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL THIS NOVEMBER!!
...!
WHAT --?!

ARE YOU WATCHING, FALL MOON?
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!
DID SHE JUST SAY, "FALL MOON"?
WHA...
WHAT DOES "THE FALLEN MOON"...
...EVEN MEAN, ANYWAY?

Fuuka
Shelley Hornet
SHELLEY HORNET, HUH?
THIS IS AWESOME, HARUNA!! WE'RE TRENDING ON TWITTER!
ALL BECAUSE SHELLEY MENTIONED US ON TV!!
...
I WAS THE MOST SKEPTICAL OF ALL.
BUT I GUESS THE WORLD'S TOP SINGING DIVA...
...REALLY DID REMEMBER US.


MURMUR
MURMUR

DAMN. SHE'S BEEN SO QUIET LATELY THAT WE LET OUR GUARD DOWN.
NO, NOT A TRACE.
WELL? DID YOU FIND HER?

OH, THAT.
SOME SINGER CALLED SHELLEY HORNET WAS DOING A DRESS REHEARSAL.
THERE ARE SO MANY GUARDS OUT THERE. IS SOMETHING GOING ON?

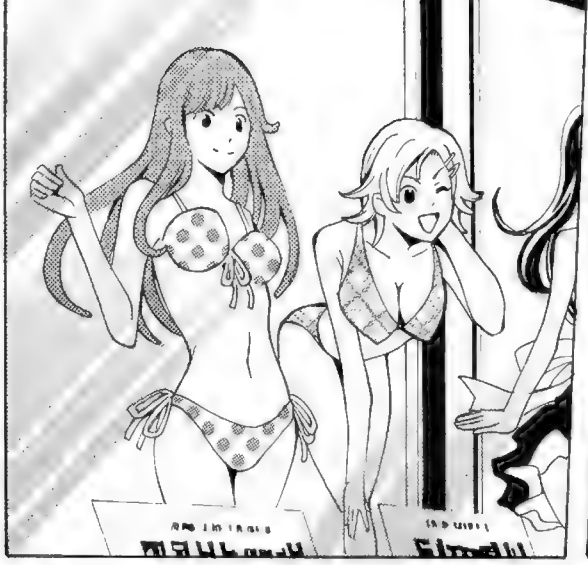
GOOD MORNING.
HEY, HARU-NA.

SIGN: DRESSING ROOM

I GUESS SHE REALLY IS A DIVA.
IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HER ENTOURAGE.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHELLEY HORNET WAS GOING TO PLAY AT THE BUDOUKAN.

...
WHA --?!
OH--!
AREN'T YOU...

88 SHELLY HORNET!



WHOA. NOT SO LOUD!!
WAY TO GO!!
THIS STORE IS FANTASTIC, YUU!! GOOD CHOICE!

OH!
EXCELLENT.

NO PROB-LEM.
NO ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND SHELLEY HORNET COSPLAYING AS A JANITOR AND HANGING AROUND IN AKIBA.

WHAT?!
I CAME TO JAPAN SO I COULD GO TO AKIBA!
THIS IS AN ORDER! TAKE ME THERE RIGHT NOW!!
WELL... I GUESS NOT.
WAS THIS REALLY A GOOD IDEA?

I'M SUPER INTO JAPANESE ANIME LATELY, SO I LEARNED FROM THAT.
DUBS JUST DON'T CAPTURE WHAT MAKES ANIME SO GREAT.
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME, THOUGH.
CARRYING ON IN TOTALLY FLUENT JAPANESE LIKE THAT.

THAT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT, IS IT?
MAN, CAPTAIN LEVI REALLY IS THE COOLEST.

IF YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, WE SHOULD GO BEFORE SOMEONE RECOGNIZES YOU.
...

I'M GLAD IT WAS YOU WHO FOUND ME, THOUGH.
YOU SEEM LIKE A PUSHOVER, SO I KNEW YOU'D DO AS I SAID.

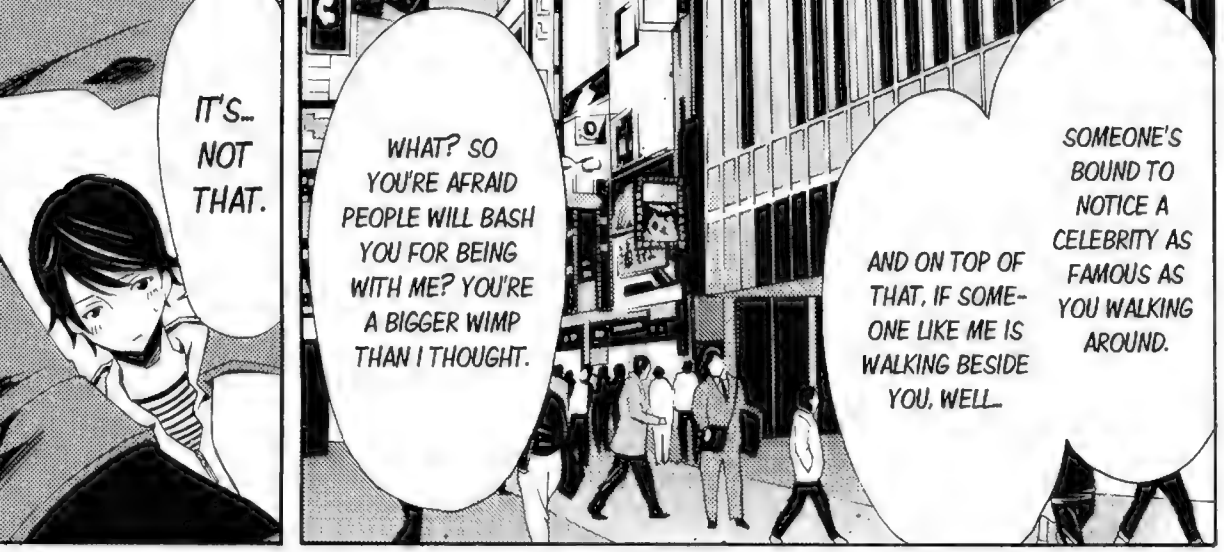
HEY!!
A B-BLACK CARD?!
HEY, BOSS! I LIKE THIS STORE!
AIRMAIL ALL OF YOUR FIGURES TO AMERICA FOR ME, OKAY?

S-SLAVE?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? QUIT PULLING ME, SLAVE!!
DON'T DRAW ATTENTION TO YOURSELF!

...
HUFF
HUFF
HUH
ホワ
ホワ
HUH

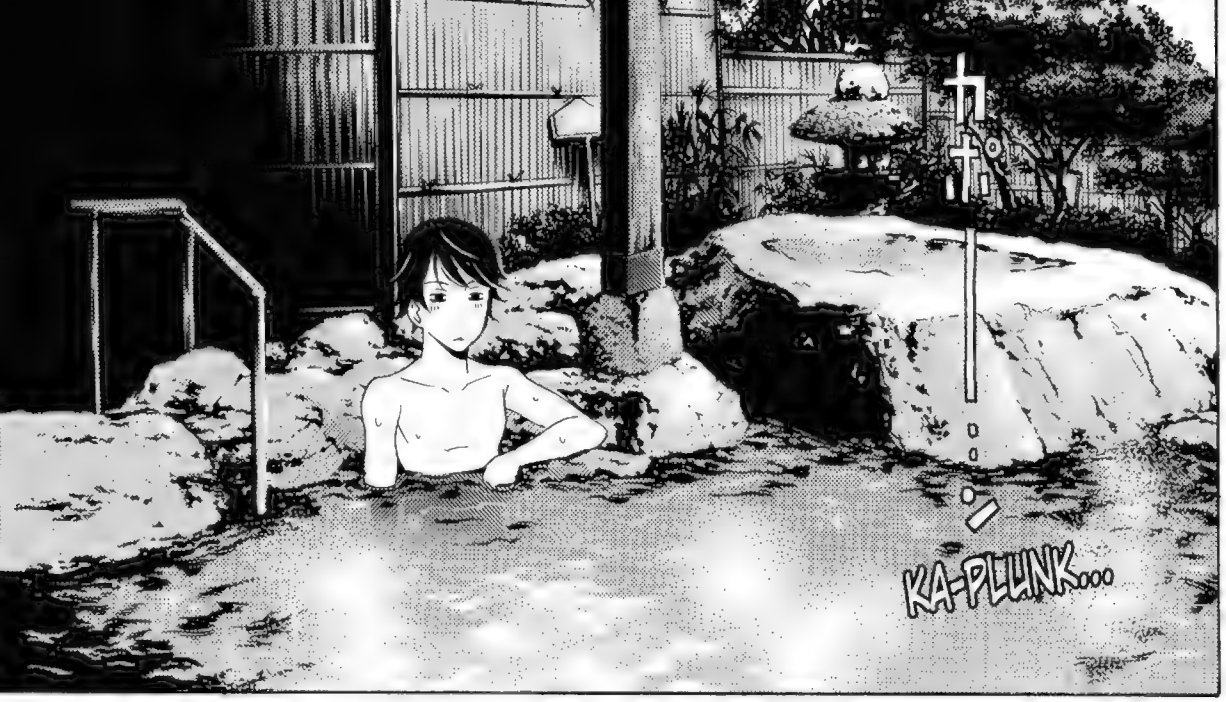
HEY, YUU, I WANT TO BUY SOME CLOTHES! THIS OUTFIT IS EMBARRASSING!!
THEN LET'S JUST GO BACK!
THAT LOOKS NASTY! I'M NOT EATING THAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED MONJAYAKI!!
AHH, THAT WAS FUN!!
THE SHIBUYA SCRAMBLE CROSSING IS JUST AS EXCITING AS I'D HEARD!!
SLUMP
スン
GLAD TO HEAR IT...
I'LL PROBABLY GET YELLED AT WHEN I GO TO WORK TOMORROW.
LISTEN, SERIOUSLY, LET'S HEAD BACK NOW.
HMPH
4

HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! AM I BORING YOU THAT MUCH?!
YOU'RE ON A DATE WITH THE SHELLEY HORNET!
CAN'T YOU TRY TO ENJOY YOURSELF A LITTLE MORE?!
HUH?!
NO-- THAT'S EXACTLY WHY.


IT'S... NOT THAT.
WHAT? SO YOU'RE AFRAID PEOPLE WILL BASH YOU FOR BEING WITH ME? YOU'RE A BIGGER WIMP THAN I THOUGHT.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, IF SOMEONE LIKE ME IS WALKING BESIDE YOU, WELL...
SOMEONE'S BOUND TO NOTICE A CELEBRITY AS FAMOUS AS YOU WALKING AROUND.

SO... I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOUR FANS, TOO.
...AND I CAUSED HER--AND HER FANS--A LOT OF GRIEF.
I WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH A FAMOUS SINGER ONCE BEFORE...

HUH?
IF YOU'LL TAKE ME TO JUST ONE MORE PLACE.
HUH? REALLY?!
OKAY, FINE. YOU WANT TO GO BACK, THEN?
...


KA-PLUNK...

IF YOU WON'T GO, I'LL TELL EVERYONE YOU KIDNAPPED ME!
OH, YEAH, THAT'LL BE A BIG INTERNATIONAL MESS!!

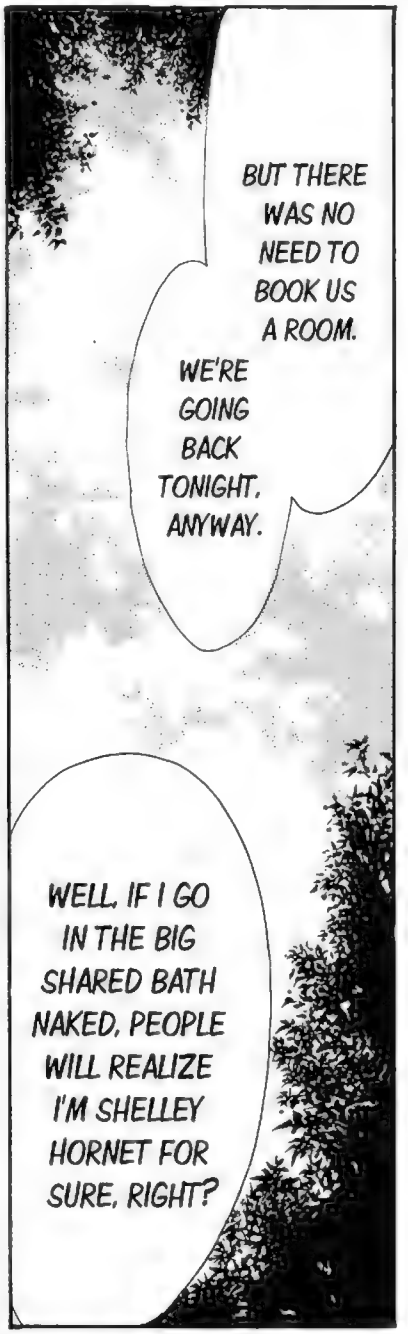
WHAT?! WE CAN'T GO TO HAKONE RIGHT NOW!
IT'LL BE FINE. IF WE TAKE THE ROMANCECAR, WE CAN GET THERE AND BACK BY TONIGHT!

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
...

WOW!! AMAZING!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT HAKONE'S HOT SPRINGS AT LEAST ONCE!!
SO THIS IS WHAT SULFUR SMELLS LIKE...
IT'S INSPIRING. I FEEL LIKE I COULD WRITE A GREAT SONG.
HOW'S THE WATER, YUU?
HUH?!
UH... YEAH! IT'S PERFECT!
BUT, UM, WHY DID I HAVE TO GET IN FIRST?
ISN'T THAT THE RULE IN JAPAN?
THE MEN BATHE FIRST.

W-WELL, YEAH, A LONG TIME AGO.
WHAT KIND OF ANIME HAS SHE BEEN WATCHING?

JUST FOR THAT?
SHE WAS ABLE TO BOOK A ROOM AT A FANCY INN LIKE THIS ON A TOTAL WHIM.
BLACK CARDS ARE AMAZING.


BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO BOOK US A ROOM.
WE'RE GOING BACK TONIGHT, ANYWAY.
WELL, IF I GO IN THE BIG SHARED BATH NAKED, PEOPLE WILL REALIZE I'M SHELLEY HORNET FOR SURE, RIGHT?

BE-SIDES...
I MAY BE ME, BUT I'D STILL BE SHY ABOUT SHARING A BATH WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE.
W-WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE...

I HEARD WESTERNERS EVEN WEAR SWIMSUITS IN HOT SPRINGS.
CREAK

HUH?!

I... I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, DO I?
SPLOOSH
WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S SUCH A CRAZY RULE...
...THAT HOT SPRINGS ARE CO-ED.
HUH?

THERE'S NO RULE THAT ALL JAPANESE HOT SPRINGS ARE CO-ED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LOOK--
I'LL TELL PEOPLE YOU AS-SAULTED ME!!
INTER-NATIONAL INCIDENT!!
...
JUST TELL ME HOW TO USE THE BATH!!
IT'S COLD, AND THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING!!
MAKE SURE...
...YOU'RE CLEAN AND RINSED OFF BEFORE YOU GET IN.
OH! THAT'S EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
...GREAT.
Fuuka

89 HOPE FOR TOMORROW!

...
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
TURN AROUND AND YOU'LL REGRET IT. GOT THAT?
...YES.
PREVIOUSLY
YUU WAS AT WORK WHEN HE MET SHELLEY, THE WORLD'S TOP SINGING DIVA WHO'S VISITING JAPAN. SHE DRAGGED YUU AROUND TOWN ON A DATE, SAYING SHE WAS IN JAPAN JUST TO GO TO AKIHABARA. AFTER PLENTY OF SHOPPING AND DINING, THE FINAL PLACE SHE ASKED HIM TO GO TO WITH HER WAS THE HAKONE HOT SPRINGS!

I'M SO GLAD I CAME HERE.
WHOOOOSH
AHH... THIS FEELS GREAT.

HMM, HMM, HMMMM ♪
HMM, HMM, HMMMM ♪
HMM, HMM, HMMMM ♪
WOW. SHE'S ONLY HUMMING, BUT IT SOUNDS AMAZING.
SHE REALLY IS A GOOD SINGER.
UH... CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT?

WOULDN'T MOST SINGERS AT YOUR LEVEL TURN DOWN A LITTLE JAPANESE MUSIC FESTIVAL?
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE IN THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL?
...
DON'T LOOK!!
KONK
SORRY!!
HUH?!
MAKE NO MISTAKE.
I ASKED PERSONALLY TO HAVE A PART IN THIS FESTIVAL.
EVER SINCE... I MET HER IN THAT TOWN SEVEN YEARS AGO.
I USED TO DREAM THAT THIS DAY WOULD COME.

BACK THEN...

EVERY DAY AROUND NOON, SOME MAN I DIDN'T KNOW CAME TO SEE MY MOM, AND I WAS KICKED OUT.
AND EVERY NIGHT, MY DRUNK MOM WOULD JUST RANT ABOUT THE FATHER I NEVER EVEN KNEW.
IF I HADN'T HAD A MOM LIKE THAT, I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY...
I LIVED EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE THINKING THAT.
KA-CHAK
IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN IN A PLACE LIKE THAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, WANT TO EAT WITH ME? THIS ONE'S NIKO'S.
ARE YOU CHINESE?
NO, JAPANESE.
GRRRGGL
...
I KNOW IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN.
IN A TOWN LIKE THIS, I CAN'T EVEN DREAM..
OH?
SO YOU WANT TO BE A SINGER, SHELLEY?

I FELT LIKE IT WOULD KEEP ME ALIVE JUST FOR THAT ONE DAY.
EVEN IF IT WAS THE CASUAL ADVICE OF A TOTAL STRANGER...
...BECAUSE I WANTED HER TO CHEER ME UP, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST WORDS.
I THINK I ONLY TOLD THAT JAPANESE WOMAN ALL THAT...
WHA --?
ゴシッ
RUB
...
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN ALWAYS DREAM.
SHFF
..HUH?
HAA
HEY, YOU'RE LEAVING?

?!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
IN THAT ONE IN-STANT...

SHE TURNED THAT OLD FAMILIAR ALLEY...
...INTO A CONCERT STAGE.
"WHAT YOU DO IS UP TO YOU."
"DON'T MAKE EXCUSES."
AS IF SHE WERE SAY-ING...

AND I CAN...
...BECOME ONE, TOO?!
ONE LIKE YOU, EVEN IF I COME FROM A PLACE LIKE THIS?
W-WAIT--! ARE YOU A SINGER IN JAPAN?!
HM? YEAH, SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
SURE. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY...
...WHEN WE'LL STAND ON THE SAME STAGE.
...SHE NEVER TOLD ME HER NAME, OR WHO SHE REALLY WAS.
ANY-WAY...

BUT THAT WAS DEFINITELY WHEN I FOUND IT.
NOT THE COMFORT TO LIVE THROUGH TODAY...
...BUT THE HOPE TO KEEP MOVING TOWARD TOMORROW.

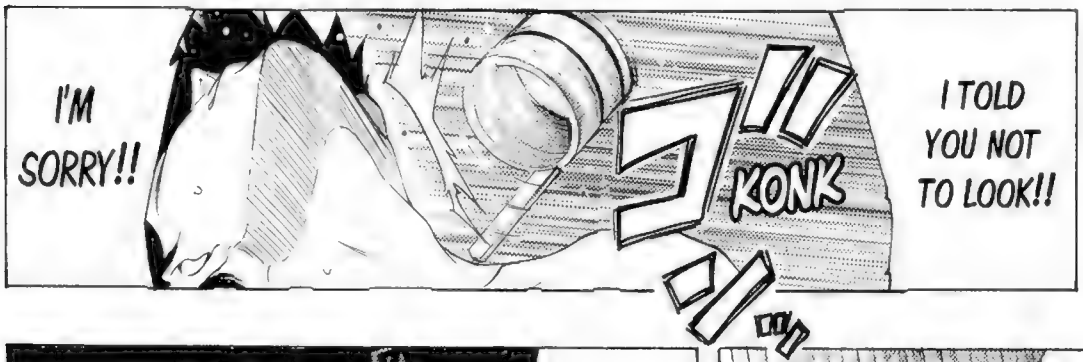
UH...
UM...
...

...

I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS ASKING SUCH A LOADED QUESTION, SO I GUESS I WAS JUST SURPRISED.
I'M, UH... REALLY SORRY...
...FOR BRINGING UP PAINFUL MEMORIES.

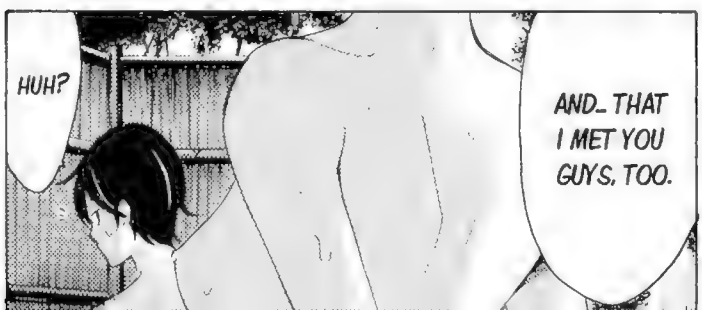
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH...
JUST...

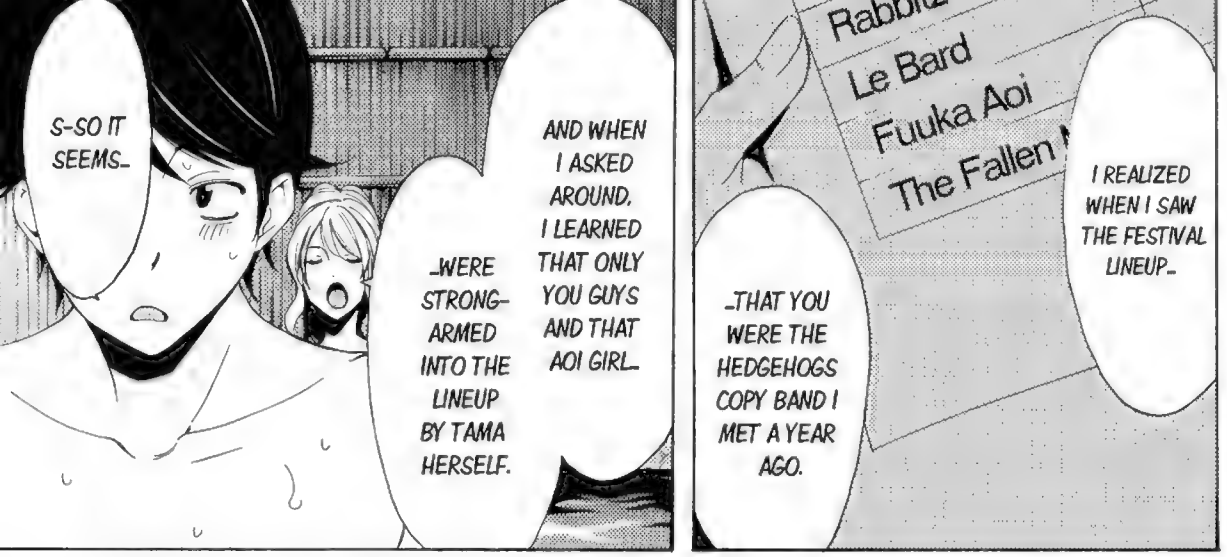
BU-
BUT...
BUT DON'T WORRY. IT'S A GOOD MEMORY NOW, SO IT'S OKAY.
AH HA HA!
YOU REALLY ARE A NICE GUY.


I'M SORRY!!
KONK
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK!!

-AND THAT SHE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR ME TO COME THIS FAR.
I KNEW IT HAD TO BE FATE-
AND ONE YEAR LATER. SUDDENLY, THEY THROW A FESTIVAL.
THEY MYSTERIOUSLY QUIT- THEN CAME BACK AFTER SIX YEARS.

I DID A LITTLE DIGGING AROUND AND FOUND OUT PRETTY EASILY-
-THAT SHE WAS THE VOCALIST IN A BAND CALLED THE HEDGEHOGS.


HUH?
AND- THAT I MET YOU GUYS, TOO.

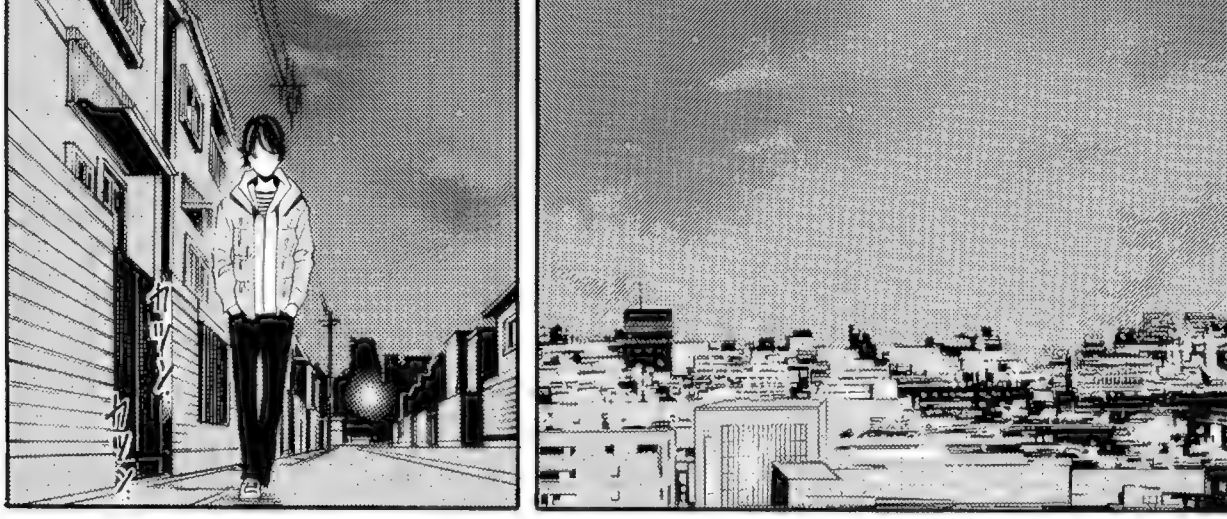

S-SO IT SEEMS...
AND WHEN I ASKED AROUND, I LEARNED THAT ONLY YOU GUYS AND THAT AOI GIRL...
...WERE STRONG-ARMED INTO THE LINEUP BY TAMA HERSELF.
Rabbit
Le Bard
Fuuka Aoi
The Fallen
I REALIZED WHEN I SAW THE FESTIVAL LINEUP...
...THAT YOU WERE THE HEDGEHOGS COPY BAND I MET A YEAR AGO.

BUT DESPITE THAT, YOU TURNED HER DOWN AT FIRST.
I HAD TO ASK TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FESTIVAL...
...AND SHE ASKED YOU GUYS PERSONALLY TO TAKE PART.

WHAT?!
H-HANG ON! IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FUUKA AKITSUKI...
I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE IT IN YOU TO DO THAT.
OH, I KNOW.
IT WAS THAT SELFISH VOCALIST OF YOURS, RIGHT?
NO...
THERE WAS A REASON FOR THAT.

SHE'S A BIT AUDACIOUS...
...ISNT SHE?
!
SHIVER!!

STAND
!!!
WELL, WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU CAN TELL FUUKA.
..THAT SHELLEY HORNET WILL BE WAITING FOR HER AT THE FESTIVAL
UH..
FUUKA IS...
...
THAT GIRL IS THE REAL DEAL, FOR SURE.
BUT IT'S ME WHO'S GOING TO WIN.

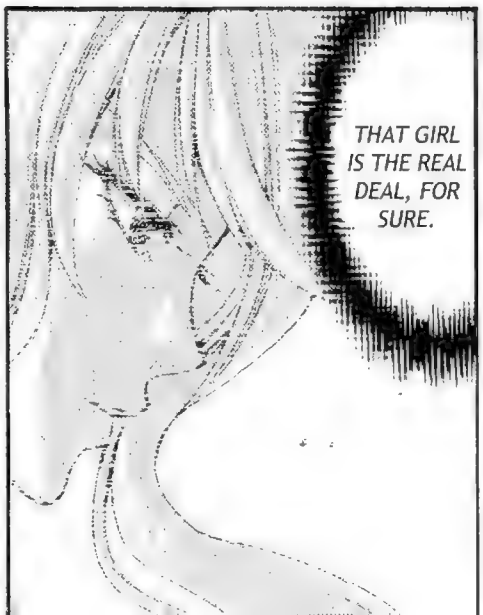

カツン
カツン

...THAT FUUKA AKITSUKI ISN'T AROUND ANY-MORE.
I COULDN'T MANAGE TO TELL HER...

IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING. I'D LOOK LIKE A DISGRACE.
I COULDN'T TELL HER ALL THAT.

THAT THE CURRENT VOCALIST OF THE FALLEN MOON...
...IS STARTING OVER FROM THE BASICS IN REHEARSAL NOW.

...


THAT GIRL IS THE REAL DEAL, FOR SURE.

?!
SKREEEE
イッ
HOW MUCH CLOSER CAN I GET-
-TO FUUKA'S LEVEL IN ONE MORE MONTH?
H-HINO-KAWA-SAN? WHAT'S GOING ON?
ALL THE OTHERS ARE IN THE BACK!!
YOU'RE LATE, HARUNA-SAN!!
YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT MONTH AT TRAINING CAMP!!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!!

GREAT REALIZATIONS

Fuuka 4 PANEL THEATER

HMM... MAYBE MY STORY IS BORING THIS TIME...
AN UNUSUAL PALL HUNG OVER A MEETING WITH "N-TA," MY EDITOR.
THIS IS TOUGH.. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING BETTER...
THIRTY MIN-UTES LATER...
HEY! DO YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA FOR ME?
YOU KNOW ...
SHIF
IS THAT WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?! WE'RE IN A MEETING! ACT LIKE IT!
I THINK THAT GIRL WHO WAS SITTING BEHIND YOU... WASN'T WEARING A BRA!

90 RECORDING!

I'M MAMIYA, THE RECORDING ENGINEER.
IT'S A PLEASURE.

A TRAINING CAMP AT LAKE YAMANAKA...
UH... HI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
...WHERE WE'LL RECORD A CD?!

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU GUYS SEEM TO BE GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION, THANKS TO SHELLEY HORNET.
SO WE WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL AT THE FESTIVAL.
YEAH, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE READY TO MAKE A CD.
WHY LAKE YAMANAKA, ANYWAY? COULDN'T WE STAY IN THE CITY?
THERE'S A FACILITY AT THE LAKE THAT'LL MAKE WORKING CONTINUOUSLY MUCH EASIER.
WOW, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS, SARA-SENPAI.
W-WELL, I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MUSIC ALL MY LIFE.
PLUS, MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WHEN IT'S RECORDED IN A PLACE WITH DRY AIR.
BESIDES, WE'RE GOING TO A FACILITY OWNED BY A FRIEND OF MINE WHO JUST STARTED HER JOB THERE TODAY...
...SO WE WERE ABLE TO RENT IT CHEAP FOR A MONTH.

AKANE MAMIYA-- SHE'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL, BUT SHE'S TALENTED. I KNOW SHE'LL DO GOOD WORK FOR US.
IF EVEN THE PRESIDENT CALLS HER UNUSUAL, SHE REALLY MUST BE.

OKAY. REST UP IN THE COTTAGE FOR TONIGHT, AND WE'LL MEET AT 9 A.M. TOMORROW.
MAKE SURE YOU EAT AND USE THE BATHROOM FIRST.
AND LEAVE YOUR GUITAR AND BASS HERE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE AMP AND EFFECTOR SETTINGS.

I'LL CREATE THE SOUND I THINK IS BEST BASED ON THAT.
I DON'T NEED AMATEURS BUTTING IN.

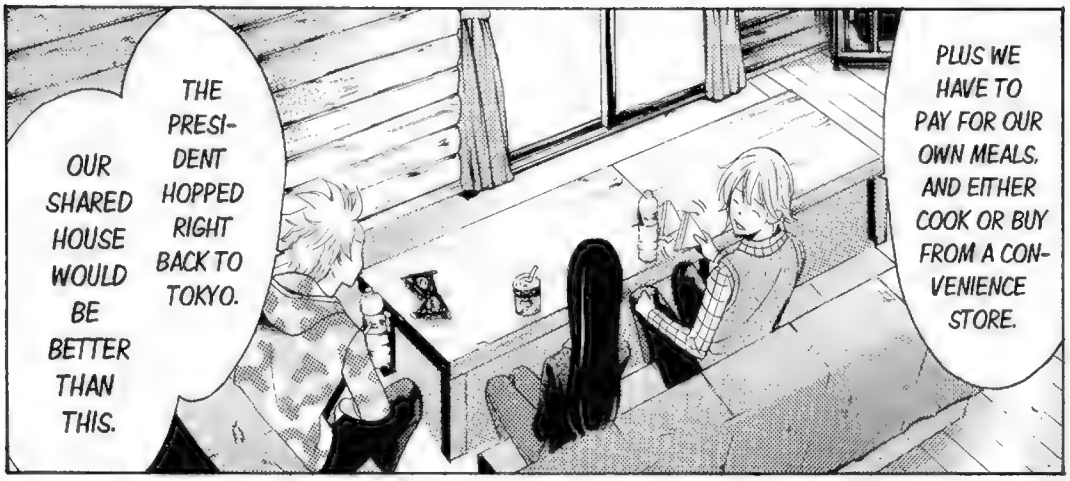
AH, UM...
I'VE LISTENED TO YOUR SONGS.
WE'LL DO ALL THAT OUR-SELVES.

GLARE
SNAP
AMA--
PLEASE DON'T GO AGAINST WHAT MAMIYA-SAN SAYS!!
THAT'S THE PRES-- NO, MY ORDERS!!
UH..
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
OH, BOY.

HEY, IWAMI, QUIT TER-RORIZING AOBA-CHAN.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!!
Y-YOUR EYES... YOU HAVE A KILLER'S EYES!
WHAT?!
EEP!

I GET IT, OKAY? SHUT THE WINDOW. IT'S COLD.
AND JUST THINKING THAT I HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS RUN-DOWN COTTAGE FOR A WHOLE MONTH IS DEPRESSING ME.

LOOK, SENPAI! YOU CAN SEE MOUNT FUJI FROM HERE!
AND THE HEDGE-HOGS' FESTIVAL VENUE, TOO!!


OUR SHARED HOUSE WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS.
THE PRESI-DENT HOPPED RIGHT BACK TO TOKYO.
PLUS WE HAVE TO PAY FOR OUR OWN MEALS, AND EITHER COOK OR BUY FROM A CON-VENIENCE STORE.

AOBA-CHAN, DID THE PRESIDENT TELL YOU ANYTHING?
NO. ONLY THAT SHE'S A FRIEND WHO'S UNUSUAL.
HA HA. SO ALL WE KNOW IS THAT SHE'S UNUSUAL.
YEAH.

AND WHAT'S WITH THAT ENGINEER, MAMIYA?
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF HER.

CAN WE REALLY TRUST SOMEONE LIKE THAT?!
N-NOW, NOW-

WE FINALLY GET TO PUT OUT OUR OWN CD, AFTER ALL.
S-SORRY!!
I SAID SHUT THE WINDOW, HARUNA!!
I'M SO HAPPY, I DONT EVEN CARE ABOUT ALL THAT.

CRASH
DUM DA-DUM
BANG
BANG
BANG
WE HAVE TO..
WE HAVE TO GET BETTER!!

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE TO RECORD THE RHYTHM PARTS FOR FIVE SONGS ON AN EP THAT WAY?
AND STOP!
AGAIN, FROM THE BEGIN-NING.

I... I THOUGHT WE WOULD ALL RECORD TOGETHER.
HUFF
HUFF
GET IT TO-GETH-ER.
WE CAN'T MOVE ON UNTIL THE DRUMS AND BASS ARE RECORDED.
HAAH
HAAH
W-WE'VE BEEN AT IT HALF A DAY, AND SHE HASN'T EVEN OKAYED ONE SONG.
I COULD GET SICK OF FAIR WIND AT THIS RATE.

ASK AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO PLAY THROUGH ONCE WITHOUT SCREWING UP.
A ROOKIE BAND LIKE YOU ISN'T CAPABLE OF THAT.

YUU-KUN'S HAVING A TOUGH TIME.
EVEN WHEN HE GETS A GOOD TAKE, IF THE DRUMS NEED A RETAKE, THEY BOTH HAVE TO PLAY IT OVER AGAIN.
HUH? WHY?
BECAUSE WE CAN'T GET THE GROOVE DOWN OTHERWISE.

THE DRUM TRACK IS RECORDED FIRST, AND IF IT'S NO GOOD, THE WHOLE THING IS RUINED...
NACHI-SENPAI DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH AWARE-NESS OF THAT.

UM...
COME ON, WE'RE STARTING.
HURRY AND GET SET.

BUT IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
JUST LOOK AT IT AS A CHANCE FOR YUU-KUN TO GET MORE PRACTICE IN.
WELL... I GUESS SO.

...

SORRY, BUT MY FINGERS ARE KINDA...
CAN I HAVE A MINUTE TO BANDAGE THEM?

WHY DON'T WE GET THE GUITARIST TO TAKE YOUR PLACE, THEN?
SHE COULD PROBABLY PLAY IT BETTER THAN YOU.
HUH?
. . .
WHAT?!
FLINCH
THIS IS A RECORD-ING, SO ANYONE COULD PLAY IT.
. . .
WITH HIM IN THERE, WE'LL NEVER GET THIS DONE.

SORRY. I'M FINE.
GRAB
LET'S KEEP GOING!
...ALL RIGHT.
LET'S BEGIN, THEN.
RIGHT!!
BUM
BUM
BUM
BANG
BANG
BANG

WHEW..
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
EX-CUSE ME..
TMP
WE DO HAVE A DEADLINE.
THE BEST THING WE CAN DO IS KEEP THINGS MOVING QUICKLY.
ISN'T THAT JUST FOR YOUR BENEFIT?!
DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO SAY IT THAT WAY?
YUU-SAN IS DOING HIS BEST.

THE REQUEST I GOT FROM AMAYA WAS TO RECORD THE BEST SOUND POSSIBLE WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT...
...NOT TO PRAISE CHILDREN FOR TRYING HARD.

P-PLUS, EVEN IF IT TAKES A WHILE TO RECORD THE RHYTHM PART...
...MAKOTO-KUN AND I WILL FINISH OUR PARTS QUICKLY, SO IT'LL BE FINE!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN JUST ANYONE CAN PLAY HIS PART!
ISN'T THAT JUST FOR YOUR BENEFIT?

LOOK...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA HERE?
...HUH?

WHAT'S HOLDING THIS BAND BACK MOST OF ALL...
...IS YOUR GUITAR PLAYING.
...ME?

I'M AWARE OF THAT!!
THAT'S WHY I'M DOING ALL I CAN TO MAKE YUU-SAN STAND OUT MORE--
YOU'RE KILLING HIM.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE, A BAND'S GUITARIST IS JUST FOR SHOW.
THE VOCALIST'S SINGING IS THE IMPORTANT THING, NO?

...HE HAS EXTRAORDINARY TALENT.
AS A VOCALIST...

SO HIS SINGING, THE LEAD PART, DOESN'T STAND OUT AT ALL.
...YOU'RE CLUTTERING THE MUSIC WITH MORE SOUND THAN IT NEEDS.
BUT WITH YOU BABYING HIM THE WAY YOU DO...

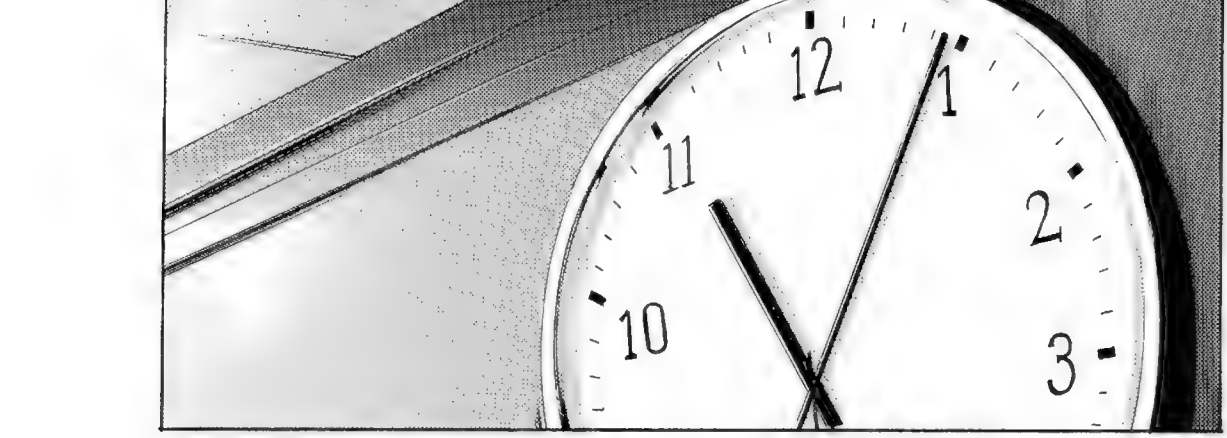
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE NO TRUST...
...IN HIS SINGING.
...DON'T TRUST YUU-SAN'S SINGING?
I...

I JUST THOUGHT THAT RECORDING A GUITARIST...
TMP
TMP
...AS ARROGANT AS YOU MAY TAKE A LONG TIME.
I...
...DON'T THINK THAT AT ALL.
IF ANY OF THOSE GUYS WANT TO COMPLAIN, I'LL SHUT THEM UP WITH MY GUITAR.
I HAVE TO...
I HAVE TO WORK HARDER.
FOR YUU-SAN...
I HAVE TO--!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I HEARD YOU ARGUING WITH SOMEONE...
SO I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED.
I DON'T...
...TRUST YUU-SAN'S SINGING.
I'M SORRY --!!
HUH ?!
SA--
SARA-SEN-PAI!!

HEY, HARU-NA.
SARA-SEN-PAI! PLEASE, WAIT A MINUTE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? BREAK'S OVER.
Fuuka
BUT --!
HURRY IT UP!
THEY CAN'T RECORD THE GUITAR AND KEYBOARD UNTIL YOU AND I ARE DONE.
...
YEAH..
YOU'RE RIGHT.

91 AT THE LAKE'S EDGE!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1
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10
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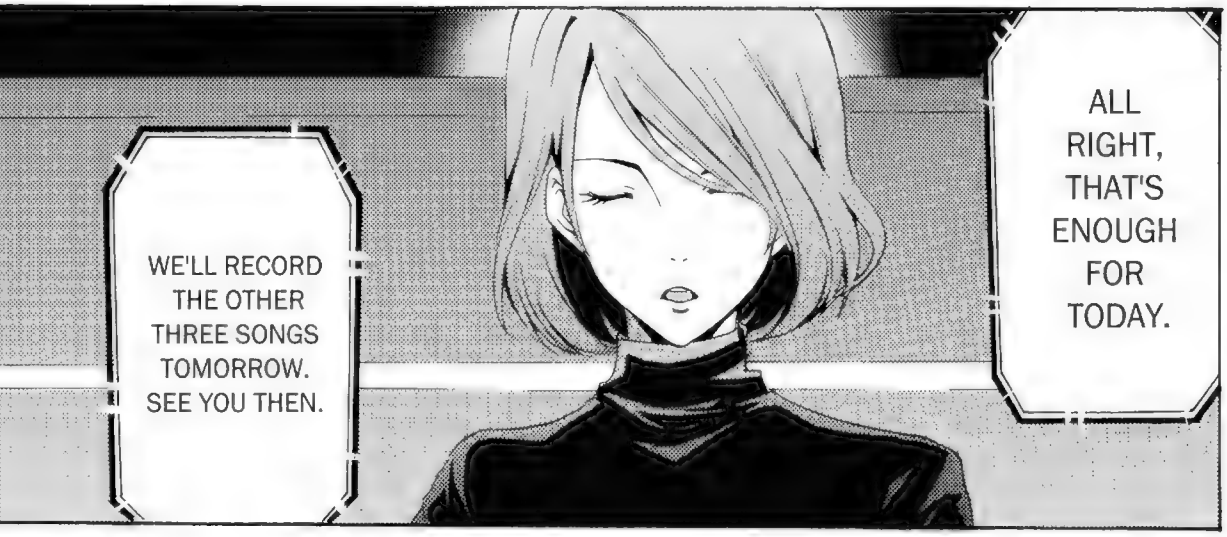

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
WE'LL RECORD THE OTHER THREE SONGS TOMORROW. SEE YOU THEN.

KA-CHAK
GOOD WORK, YOU TWO.

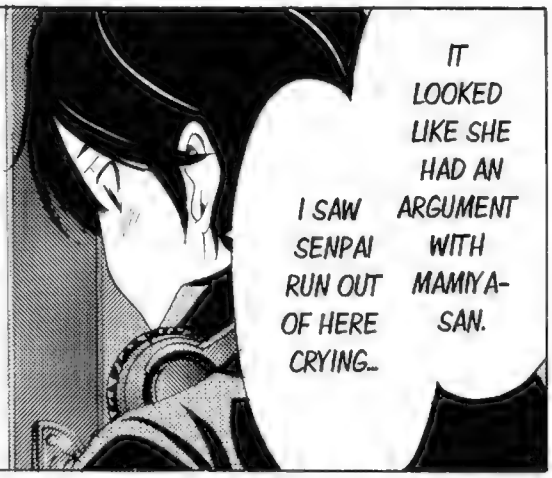
WHEW. FINALLY DONE!
WE SPENT ALL DAY RECORDING JUST TWO SONGS!
I--I WAS HOPING TO AT LEAST FINISH THREE...

AOBA-CHAN IS MAKING DINNER FOR US AT THE COTTAGE RIGHT NOW.
IT'S A LITTLE LATE, BUT LET'S GO EAT.

SHE PROBABLY GOT BORED AND WENT FOR A WALK. THE LAKE'S CLOSE, AFTER ALL.
THAT COCKY BRAT. AND WE'VE BEEN IN HERE BUSTING OUR BUTTS.

OH... HAVE YOU SEEN SARA-SENPAI?
NOT SINCE AROUND LUNCHTIME, ACTUALLY.

HUH?
REALLY?


IT LOOKED LIKE SHE HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH MAMIYA-SAN.
I SAW SENPAI RUN OUT OF HERE CRYING...

IT DOES MAKE ME WORRY, THOUGH.
IF SHE STILL ISN'T BACK BY THIS HOUR...

WELL, EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE...
...THOSE TWO HAVEN'T EXACTLY HIT IT OFF.

...

WHOOOOSH
アアアアア

UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T SEE ANY OF THAT IN YUU-KUN RIGHT NOW.
A GOOD VOCALIST NEEDS A CERTAIN PRESENCE... IT'S ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

FOR YUU-KUN TO BE ABLE TO SHINE ON THE STAGE, EVEN A LITTLE BIT...
...I HAVE TO BE HIS WINGS.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
...I HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER.

...IN HIS SINGING.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE NO TRUST...

AS IF SOME ROBOT LIKE HER WOULD UNDERSTAND...
...HOW I FEEL!!
...
HOW I... ...FEEL...
HEY! THERE YOU ARE!!
!!
SHFF
YUU-SAN!
YOU CAME OUT HERE TO--
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
QUIT MAKING TROUBLE FOR THE REST OF US!

EVERY-
ONE'S
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU!
HEY!
HANG
ON!!
ZWOOSH
STAY
AWAY,
YOU
JERK!!
WHA...
LEAVE...
HUH?!
...ME...

WAAAH!!
...ALONE!!
KER-SPLOOSH
HH
10

SHIVER
SHIVER
...
I WENT TOO FAR.
MAYBE.
UM.
I'M SORRY.
I SAID, NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!!
OH.
WHAT?
Y-YEAH_ W-WELL_
N- N- N-
NOW I KNOW_ WH-WH- WHAT HAP_ HAP- PENED_
KLAKETA KLAKETA KLAKETA KLAKETA
"WHAT'S WRONG WITH WORKING HARD FOR THE GUY I LOVE," RIGHT?
NO!!

LOOK... I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS FOR A LONG TIME.
I HATE YOUR FREAKING GUTS.
...
WHAT?
YOU USE TOO MUCH TOILET PAPER, AND YOU SHOW ME NO RESPECT AS YOUR SENPAI.
YOUR EYES AND THE WAY YOU'RE SO QUICK TO GET VIOLENT PISS ME OFF.
...
YOU'RE THE KIND OF NASTY WOMAN I'D NEVER WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH.
WELL, I'M SORRY!! AND I HATE YOUR GUTS, TOO!!
WHERE'S THIS EVEN COMING FROM?!

BUT THE EXCEPTION IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MUSIC.
I SERIOUSLY RESPECT THAT.

...
HUH?

I REALLY LIKE PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THAT.
YOU NEVER COMPROMISE, BUT YOU'RE NEVER SATISFIED. YOU'RE ALWAYS AIMING HIGHER.
FOR THE SAKE OF WHAT YOU LOVE, YOU DON'T SEE WORK AS "WORK."
WAS THE REASON YOU CAME BACK TO THIS BAND..
..JUST BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO GET COZY WITH THE GUY YOU LOVE?
WHA?
WHAT.. WHAT ARE YOU..
..!

WHEN WE FINISHED OUR FIRST SONG...
...I FELT LIKE I COULD PURSUE THE SAME DREAM WITH HIM.
OF COURSE NOT!
THERE'S MUSIC THAT I CAN ONLY CREATE WITH YUU-SAN.
THAT'S WHY...
EVEN IF IT MIGHT HURT SOMEONE...
...I WANTED TO SUPPORT YUU-SAN.

HE'S TRYING TO FLY WITH HIS OWN STRENGTH RIGHT NOW.
BUT YOU KNOW...
HUH?
I AGREE.
AND I'M PRETTY SURE MIKASA DOES, TOO.
HIS WINGS A RE NOTHING COMPARED TO FUUKA'S.
THEY'RE SO TINY, THEY COULD BREAK AT ANY TIME.
I'M HAVING A LOT OF FUN IMPROVING MYSELF.
BUT YOU KNOW...
BUT HE STILL WANTS TO DO IT HIMSELF...

OUR BAND CAN GET EVEN BETTER DEPENDING ON WHAT I DO, RIGHT?
BECAUSE IT MEANS...
HE'S THE VOCALIST THAT A GENIUS GUITARIST LIKE YOU FELL FOR, RIGHT?
SO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH IN HIM.

ZZZSSSSSSHH
AH--
UGH..
SO COLD..
I'M.. I'M NO GENIUS.
I'VE BUILT MYSELF UP BETTER THAN MOST.
NAH, I'M FINE.
I'M SORRY, IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
BUT YOU KNOW..
NACHI-SENPAI JUST MIGHT BE A REALLY NICE GUY AFTER ALL.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK AND CHANGE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD.

!!
POFF
YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THIS STUPID STUFF BECAUSE YOU'RE A VIRGIN.
JUST GO BANG HARUNA ALREADY!!
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!!
L-LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED OUR MOMENT TO STEP IN..
GUESS SO.
GWRBLPH!!
KER-SPLOOOOSH
ALONE.
THEY'RE LATE..
30

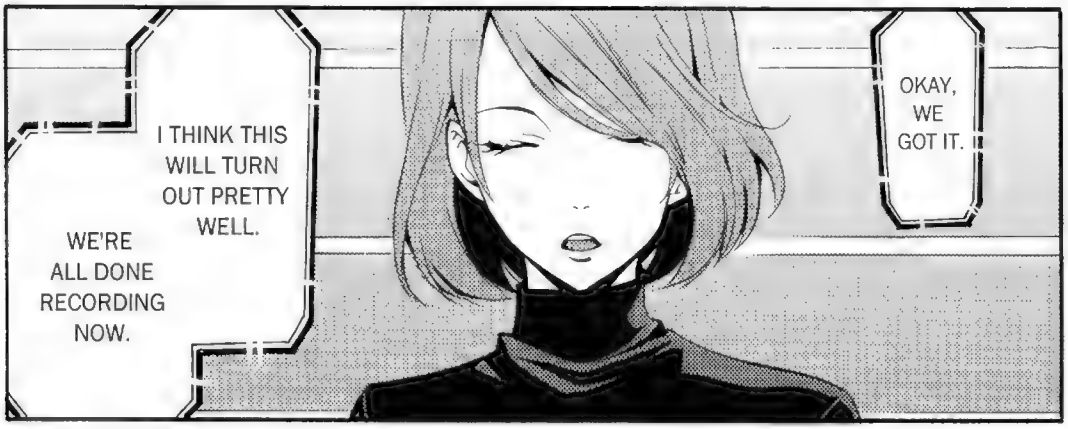
Fuuka

AHH! THESE BIG BATHS REALLY ARE THE BEST!
BOUNCING
Y-YEAH.
DO YOU COME TO PUBLIC BATHS OFTEN, FUUKA-CHAN?
NOW AND THEN.
MY BATH AT HOME IS TINY. SO IT MAKES ME WANT TO COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS.
I SEE.
IT'S MY FIRST TIME, SO IT'S KINDA NEW TO ME.

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN.
SORRY, THOUGH, KOYUKI-CHAN.
YOU'RE BUSY PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL TOO, AND I'M ASKING FOR VOICE LESSONS.
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO COOK, TOO.
SPLISH
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M SURE YUU-KUN AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE IMPROVED, TOO.
ALL RIGHT! I'M GONNA WORK EVEN HARDER!
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER, THOUGH.
YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR ENTIRE BODY BEHIND YOUR SINGING NOW.
REALLY?!
YEAH.
YEAH, I'M SURE...
...

Fuuka

92 INCREDIBLE SOUND!


OKAY, WE GOT IT.
I THINK THIS WILL TURN OUT PRETTY WELL.
WE'RE ALL DONE RECORDING NOW.

LEAVE IT TO YUU-KUN TO GET ALMOST ALL THE VOCALS DOWN IN ONE TAKE.
YEAH. I'D BEEN WONDERING HOW THIS WOULD GO AFTER IWAMI REALLY GOT INTO IT WITH MAMIYA-SAN.

HUH?
OH. OKAY.
THANK YOU.

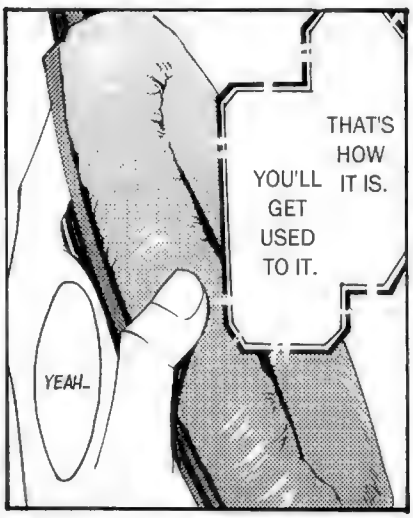
I HAVE MY OWN VISION.
THERE ARE THINGS I WON'T COMPROMISE ON.

WHAT?!
IT'S BEEN QUITE A LONG TIME...
...SINCE I WORKED WITH SUCH A STUBBORN, HIGH-MAINTENANCE GUITARIST.
...
BUT...
YOU DO KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO "DRESS UP THE COMPOSITION," AND WHEN TO "DRESS UP THE VOCALS."
I WAS SOMEWHAT IMPRESSED BY YOUR DEDICATION TO GETTING THE RIGHT SOUND.
...
HMPH!!
THANK YOU!
I HAVE TO SAY MIKASA-KUN WAS THE MOST AMAZING OF ALL. THOUGH.
HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE NEEDED TO DO WITHOUT MY HAVING TO TELL HIM ALL THE TIME.
HUH?
W-WELL...

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUNA-KUN?
WE'RE DONE, SO YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
OH. RIGHT.

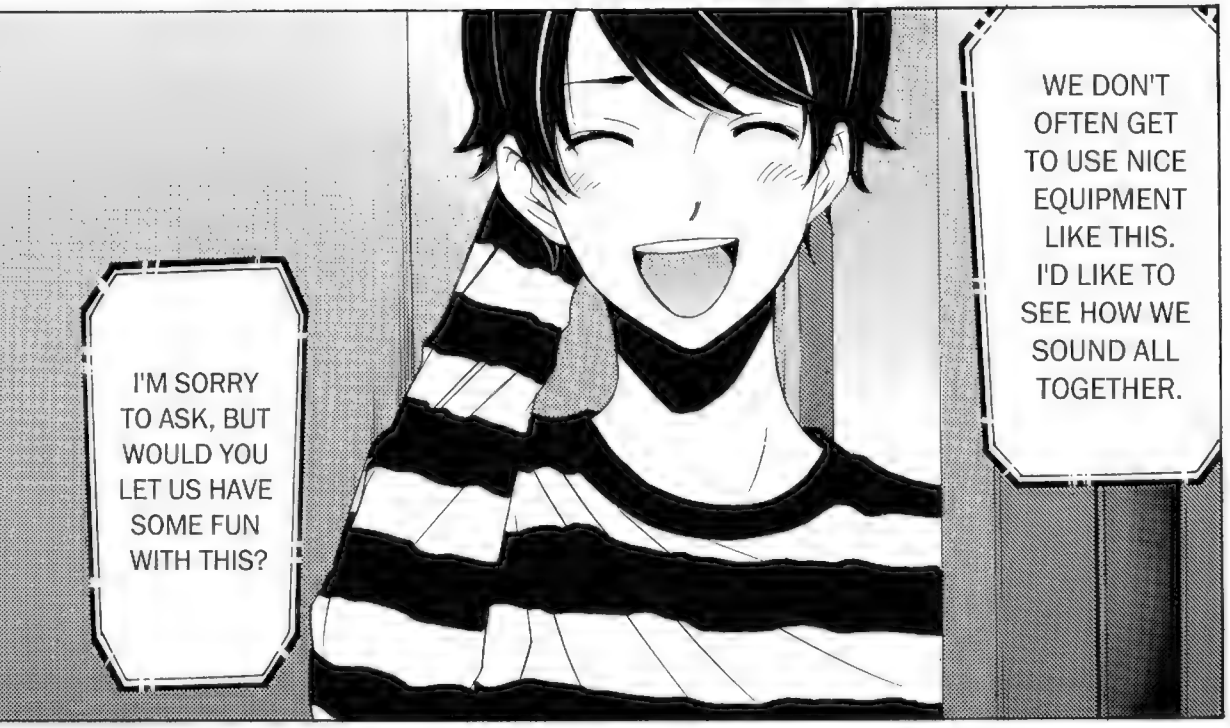
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW DIFFERENT IT IS FROM CONCERTS.
IT'S JUST... I GUESS SINCE WE ALL RECORDED SEPARATELY, IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE WE'RE DONE.

...


YEAH...
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
THAT'S HOW IT IS.

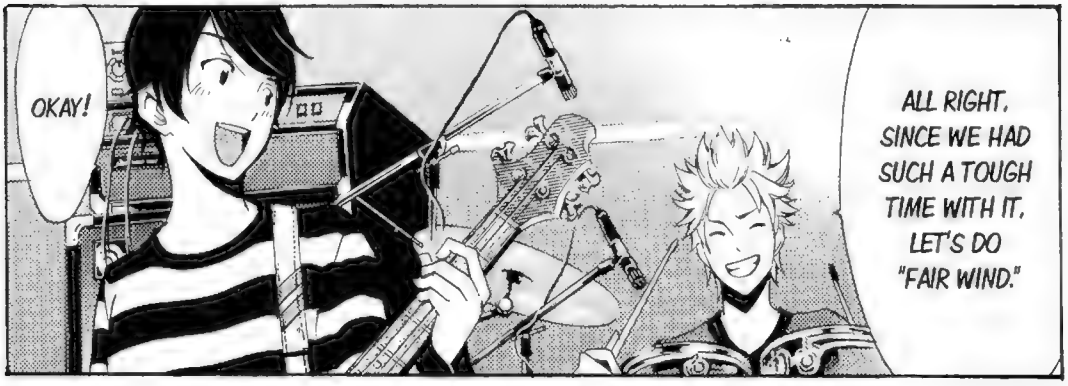
...

HUH?
KA-CHAK
カチャ
THEN COULD WE HAVE SOME FREE TIME IN HERE NOW?


I'M SORRY TO ASK, BUT WOULD YOU LET US HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS?
WE DON'T OFTEN GET TO USE NICE EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS. I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW WE SOUND ALL TOGETHER.

...
YEAH!
IT'S NO FUN PLAYING SEPA-RATELY !!
I'VE BEEN DYING TO TRY THAT!!
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, GIVE ME A MINTUE TO GET EVERYTHING SET UP RIGHT.


OKAY!
ALL RIGHT. SINCE WE HAD SUCH A TOUGH TIME WITH IT, LET'S DO "FAIR WIND."

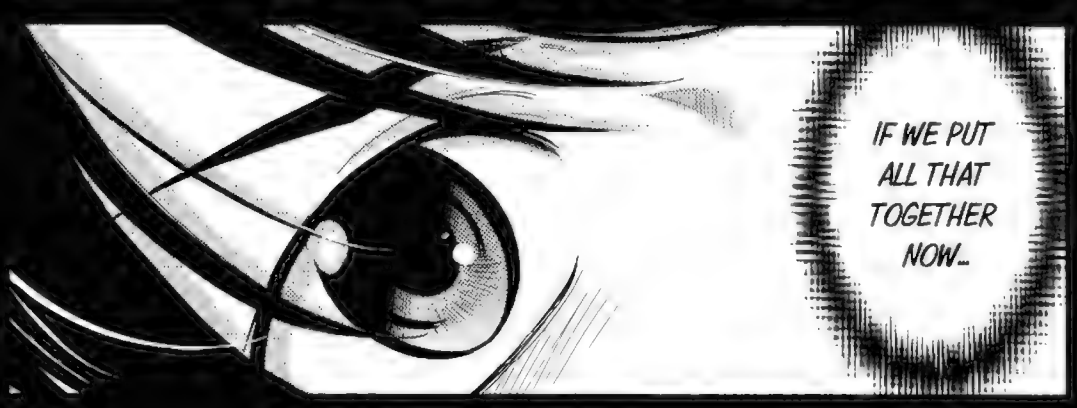
I WILL NOT!!
IF YOU PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIM, HE'LL JUST MESS UP MORE.
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!!
PLAY IT LIKE WE'RE PLAYING IN THE FESTIVAL.
NO MISTAKES, NACHI-SENPAI.

WHISH...
!!
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
READY TO START?
WELL, WELL.
HE GETS QUITE THE IMPRESSIVE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN THEY'RE ALL TOGETHER.

...GOT ME KINDA PSYCHED UP.
GETTING THROUGH ALL THE RECORDING...
...NACHI-SENPAI AND I FINALLY BUILT A GOOD METER.
SINCE WE HAD TO DO SO MANY RETAKES...
AND AS SARA-SAN ARGUED WITH MAMIYA-SAN AND DID MORE RETAKES...
...HER GUITAR KEPT SOUNDING BETTER AND BETTER.

AND MIKASA ADDED SOME TWEAKS OF HIS OWN...
...SO THE KEYBOARD WOULD MATCH ALL THE OTHER PARTS.

SO I'M SURE...


IF WE PUT ALL THAT TOGETHER NOW...

#11
SHIVER
7

IT'LL GIVE US AN INCREDIBLE SOUND!!

AKANE HAYATOMO IS BACK?
HUH?

I ASKED HER TO HANDLE ALL KINDS OF WORK, AND SHE REFUSED EVERY TIME.
SHE RETIRED FOR GOOD TEN YEARS AGO.

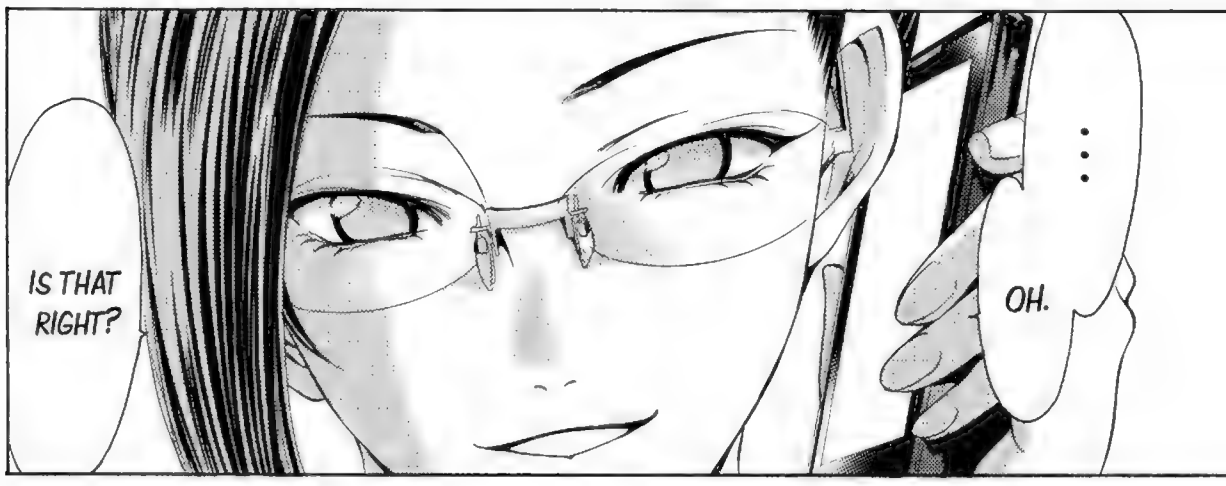
RUMOR HAS IT SHE'S AT LAKE YAMA-NAKA NOW, RECORDING WITH SOME YOUNG BAND.
YEAH. THOUGH SHE GOT MARRIED, SO SHE'S AKANE MAMIYA NOW.
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

HUH?
YOU WERE LISTENING, AKAGI?
UH.
WHO IS AKANE HAYATOMO?

SHE'S A LEGENDARY RECORDING ENGINEER WHO ONCE PUT OUT...
...ONE MILLION-SELLER AFTER ANOTHER WITH SAORI AMAYA.
FOR WHATEVER REASON, A CERTAIN RECORDING ENDED THAT...
AND SHE RETIRED FROM THE INDUSTRY.
A CERTAIN RECORD-ING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.
FIRST PRESIDENT AMAYA. NOW HER...
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
I DON'T GET EITHER ONE OF THEM.
...

I LISTENED TO THE NEW TRACKS.
MAMA! LET'S TAKE A BATH!!
WELL. THANKS.
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON MY LEGENDARY ENGINEER.
I BET THAT TOOK A LOT OF RETAKES.
THAT FIRST ONE IN PARTICULAR, "FAIR WIND," HAD A GREAT GROOVE TO IT.
HUH?
IT DID.
BUT I THREW THEM ALL OUT.
ROLL
ROLL
THEY SOUND GREAT.

THE TRACK I SENT YOU WAS RECORDED IN ONE TAKE.
THEY WERE JUST PRETENDING TO BE PLAYING A CONCERT.


IS THAT RIGHT?
...
OH.

YOU MEANT TO USE ME AS A STEPPING STONE FROM THE START, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE AWFUL, YOU KNOW.

OF COURSE NOT. I ONLY ASKED YOU BECAUSE I TRUST YOU MORE THAN ANY OTHER SOUND PRODUCER.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU COUNTLESS TIMES THAT I HATE THAT LINE?
MAMA, YOU'RE SCARY !!
BESIDES, YOU PROMISED, RIGHT?
THAT IF I FOUND A BAND YOU APPROVED OF, YOU'D WORK WITH THEM.

ALL RIGHT, I'M HANG-ING UP. UNLIKE YOU, I'M A BUSY WOMAN.
LATER.
AH... WAIT A--
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

...

I SWEAR.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SINCE THAT RECORDING SESSION BACK THEN..

YES, I DID. AND NOW I KNOW FOR SURE.
THAT I WAS RIGHT TO RETIRE WHEN I DID.
HUH?

...THAT I'VE...

...COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN MY JOB...
...AND JUST BECOME A PART OF THE AUDIENCE.

#93 WHO'LL BE NUMBER ONE!

GREAT WORK, GUYS!!
TRAINING CAMP AND RECORDING ARE OVER!
THAT'S THE PRESIDENT FOR YOU.
SHE MADE USE OF HER OLD CONNECTIONS TO GET THEM DONE CHEAP.
THIS IS OUR MERCHANDISE!
IT'S SO AWESOME!!
WOW. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
TFM
HUH?

WELL, I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT. THIS IS OUR FIRST CD, YOU KNOW.
WHAT, YOU'RE STILL LOOKING AT THAT?
THE FALLEN MOON
WHOEVER DESIGNED IT DEFINITELY HAS A LOT OF TALENT!
...IT'S TELLING A STORY, WITH THAT WANING MOON ILLUS-TRATION.
YEAH, THE JACKET COVER REALLY LOOKS LIKE...
STILL...
I REALLY THINK IT'S A GREAT CD.
FOR REAL?!
THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO, SO I WHIPPED IT UP DURING THE CAMP.
WHAT?! YOU DREW IT?!
AWW, COME ON. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME BLUSH.
EHEHE!

WELL, MAMIYA'S THE LEGENDARY ENGINEER, Y'KNOW!
YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
GROPE GROPE
HAVING PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED REALLY UPS THE QUALITY.
IT'S LIKE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIMENSION THAN THE DEMO TAPE WE MADE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT'S WITH YOU, HARUNA-KUN?!
WELL, NO POINT IN TALKING ABOUT WORK THAT'S ALREADY DONE.
...
IN EVERY SHOT WE TOOK, YOUR FACE LOOKED SO STIFF.
YOU JUST HAVE NO VISUAL APPEAL AT ALL!!
THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS SO CONFUSED!
HE KEPT ASKING, "IS HE REALLY THE VOCALIST?!"
HUH?
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
YOUR ARTIST PHOTO!!

YUU-SAN!!
GLOOM
SORRY I'M JUST A LOUSY, BORING VOCALIST WITH NO VISUAL APPEAL--
NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THAT IS THE ONE THING I COULDN'T HELP YOU WITH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
THAT WAS CRUEL OF YOU!!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY.
IF THE VOCALIST LOOKS DULL, IT'S ON YOU TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
HEY-
STOP --!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'VE GOT THESE FOR?!
WHA --!
GRAB
YOU'VE GOT ISSUES, TOO.

YOU'VE GOTTA SHOW THESE BABIES OFF!!
LIKE THIS, SEE?!
NOOO!! DON'T LOOK, YUU-SAN!!
BWRMFF!
FONDLE
FONDLE
FONDLE

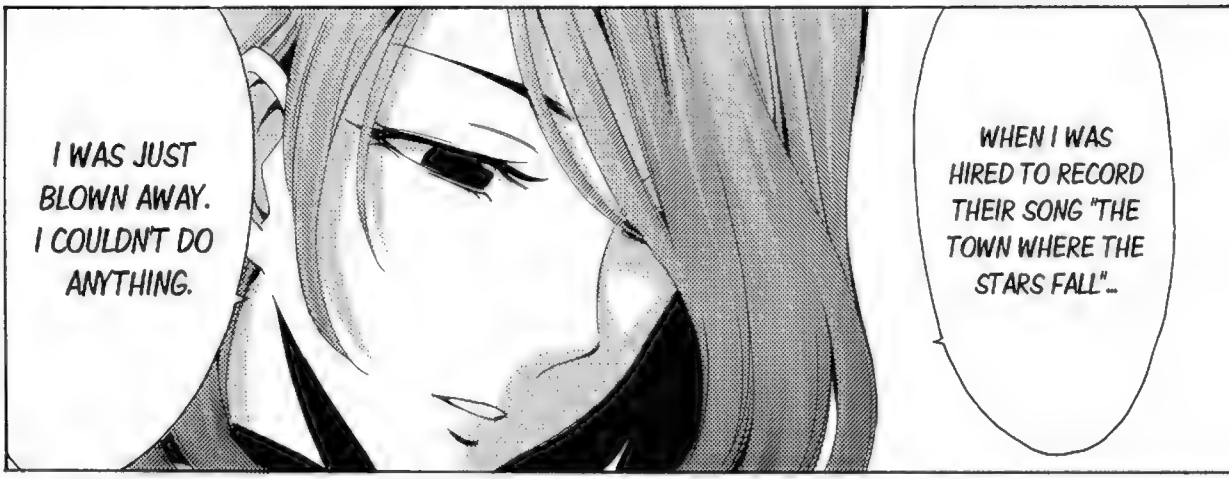
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE YOUNG! THEY'RE STILL SO BOUNCY!!
THIS IS JUST ABOUT YOUR INFERIORITY COMPLEX NOW.
COME FEEL THESE, MIKASA-KUN!!
NO, THANKS. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN LUMPS OF FAT.
THEN YOU TRY, NACHI-KUN!!
UH... OKAY.
SMACK
DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!!
THIS IS HELL.
YEAH.

HEY, GIVE IT A REST.
THE POINT IS, I NEED YOU GUYS TO BE SUCCESSFUL!!
TUNK
NO MATTER WHAT...
YOU HAVE TO SURPASS THE HEDGE-HOGS!!
...
HUH?

OH, COME ON.
YOU'RE STILL A LOUSY DRUNK, I SEE.
くー
ZZZZZZ
THAT'S MY...
DREAM...
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
YEAH--THIS IS WHY SHE'S MISSED HER CHANCE TO GET MARRIED OVER AND OVER.
FONDLE
FONDLE
HEH HEH HEH
U-UM...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
YOU GUYS NEVER HEARD ABOUT THAT?
OH?
DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH WHY SHE QUIT HER LAST COMPANY?
SURPASS THE HEDGE-HOGS?
WHY WOULD SHE WANT US TO--

THAT'S RIGHT.
AMAYA WAS ONCE A PRODUCER FOR A MAJOR LABEL.
I WAS A FREELANCE ENGINEER. BUT WE OFTEN ENDED UP WORKING TOGETHER.
WE HAD OUR OWN ESTAB-LISHED FORMULA FOR SUCCESS...
...AND WE WOULD FIT THE ARTISTS ASSIGNED TO US INTO THAT.
THAT ALONE MADE THEIR CDS FLY OFF THE SHELVES.
WE JUST ASSUMED IT WOULD ALWAYS WORK THAT WAY.
UNTIL THAT BAND...
...
UNTIL THE HEDGEHOGS APPEARED.

WHEN I HEARD THEIR MUSIC, IT SHOCKED ME.
IT MADE ME REALIZE HOW STALE THE MUSIC WE MADE WAS. THAT IT WAS JUST MADE TO BE CONSUMED.

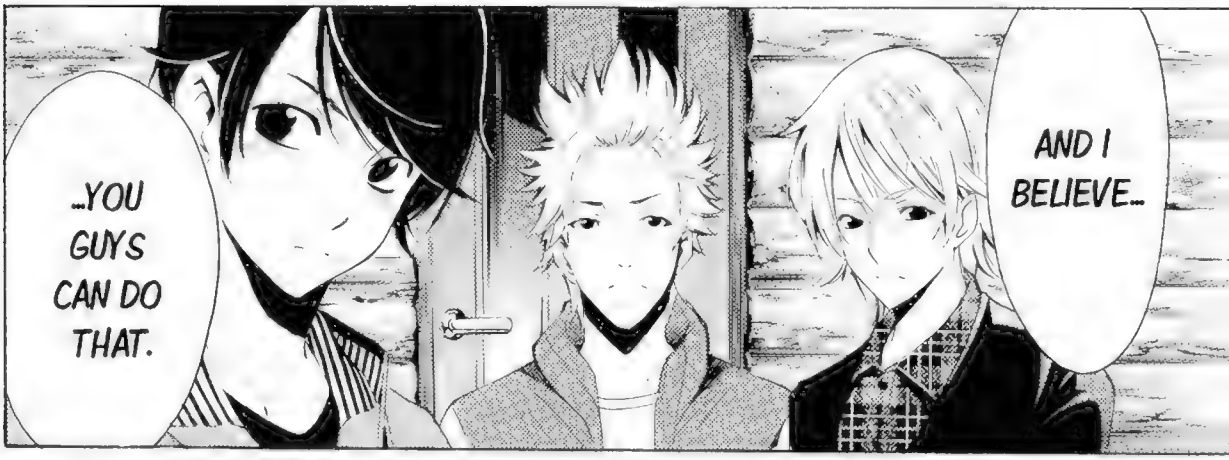

WHEN I WAS HIRED TO RECORD THEIR SONG "THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL"...
I WAS JUST BLOWN AWAY. I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

BUT NOT AMAYA.
SHE ARGUED OVER AND OVER WITH HER BOSSES THAT A BAND LIKE THEM NEEDED TO BE NURTURED.

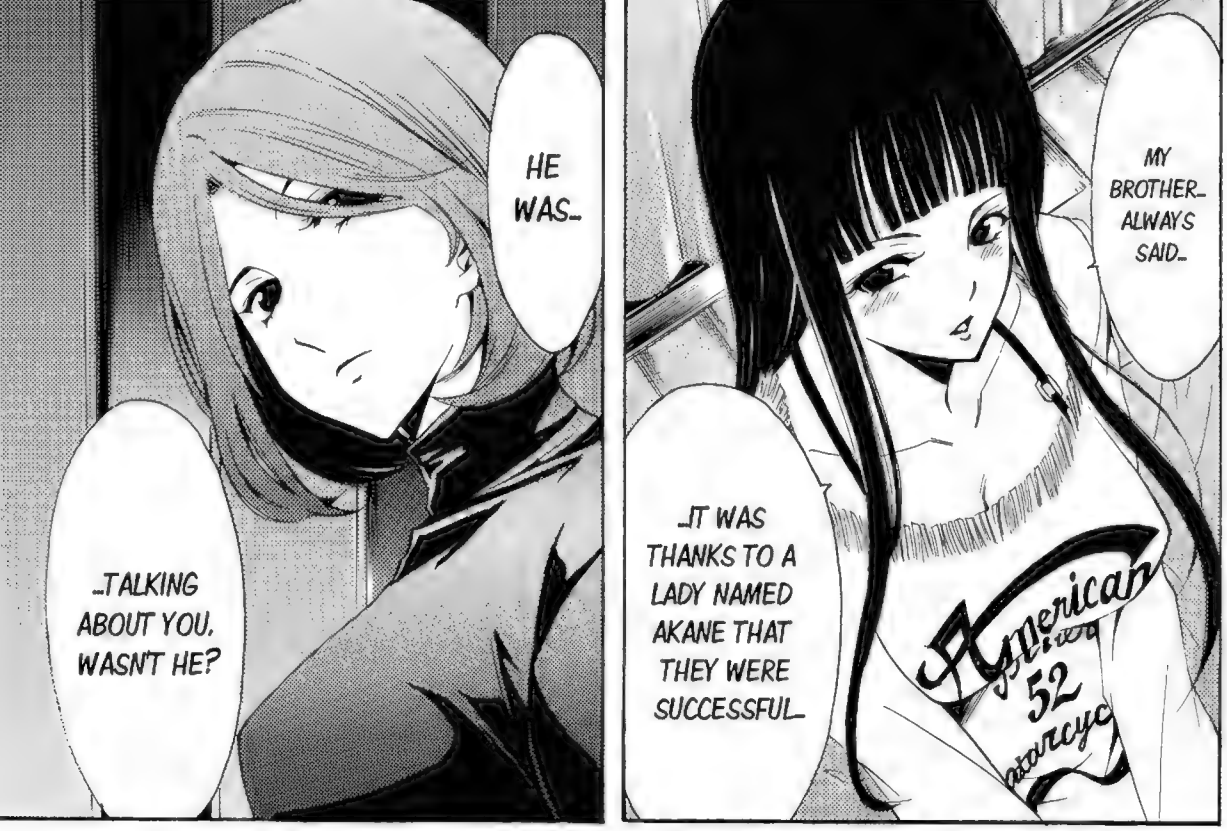
IS THAT...
...WHY YOU RETIRED?
THAT'S RIGHT...

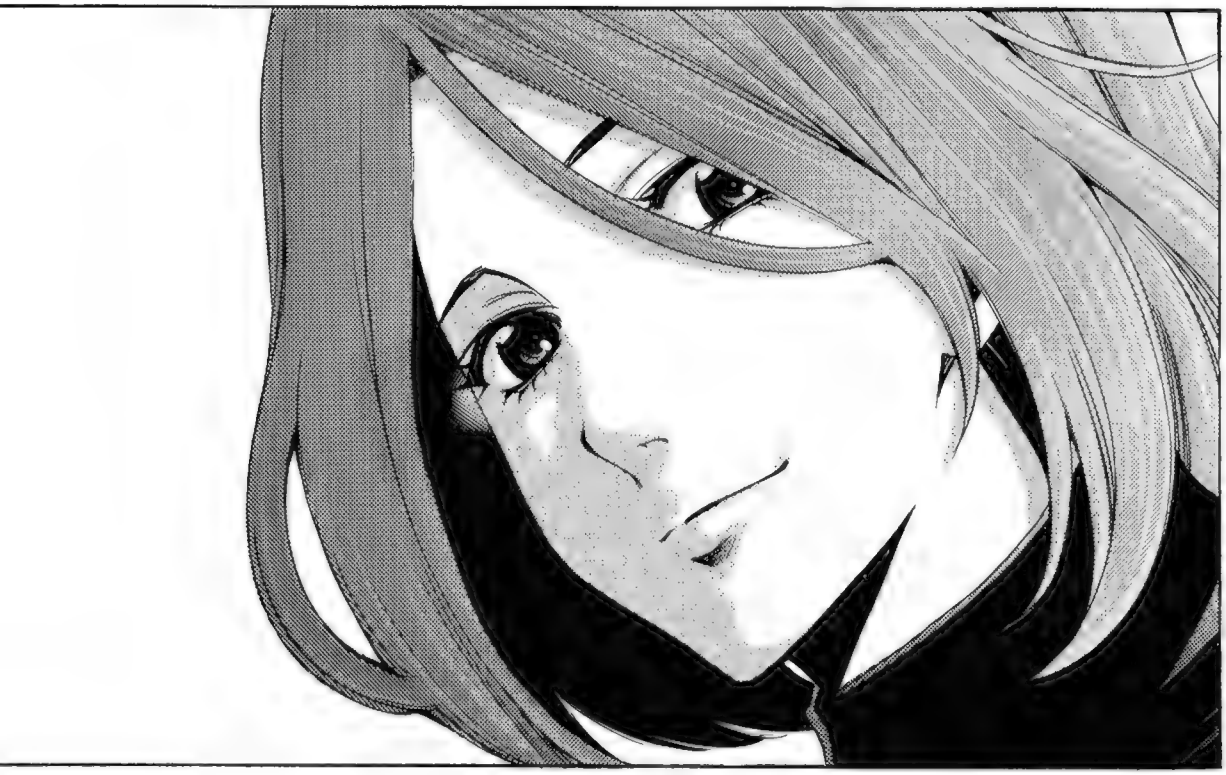
BUT THE COMPANY JUST WANTED HER TO DO WHAT SHE HAD ALWAYS DONE.
TO MAKE MEANINGLESS MUSIC THAT NOBODY WOULD REMEMBER IN A FEW MONTHS.
SO AMAYA LOST HOPE AND QUIT THE COMPANY.
AND BY THE NEXT DAY, SHE HAD STARTED UP HER OWN.
SO THAT SHE COULD PRODUCE A BAND...
...THAT WOULD SURPASS THE HEDGEHOGS.
THAT'S WHY YOU GUYS...
...ARE THE DREAM SHE FINALLY MANAGED TO FIND...
AND HER HOPE.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP.

BUT IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE...
...I WANT HER DREAM TO COME TRUE.


AND I BELIEVE...
...YOU GUYS CAN DO THAT.

UH-- WAIT!
FLOOMP
SO NOW YOU KNOW. I'M HEADING HOME.
TAKE CARE OF HER. WILL YOU?
...


HE WAS...
...TALKING ABOUT YOU, WASN'T HE?
MY BROTHER... ALWAYS SAID...
...IT WAS THANKS TO A LADY NAMED AKANE THAT THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL...



I'LL BRAG TO MY DAUGHTER ABOUT THAT.
THANKS.

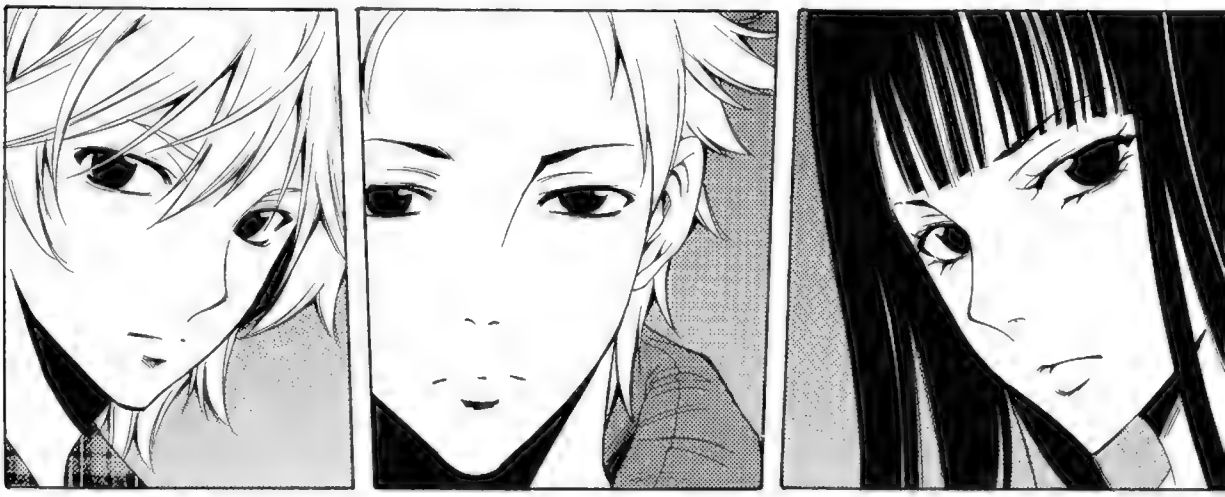
SLAM

I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A GREEDY WOMAN WITH A THING FOR MONEY.
BUT MAYBE SHE HAS MORE PASSION THAN I THOUGHT.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT WAY.
YEAH.

SHE'S VERY STRICT, BUT SHE'S ALSO VERY KIND.
I KNEW THAT MUCH.
TH-THEN THE 50 MILLION YEN FINE FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT...?
NAH, SHE SAID SHE'D MAKE SURE YOU PAID IT.
THAT'S PRETTY DAMN STRICT!!
...
IS SOME-THING WRONG...
YUU-SAN?
NO.
JUST...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HUGE FAN OF THE HEDGE-HOGS...
AND I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE INVITED TO THEIR FESTIVAL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS AMAZING TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO PLAY ON THE SAME STAGE AS THEM.
...
BUT...

JUST LOOKING UP TO THEM...
...WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH TO GET US AHEAD OF THEM.



LET'S SURPASS THE HEDGE-HOGS.
SO...

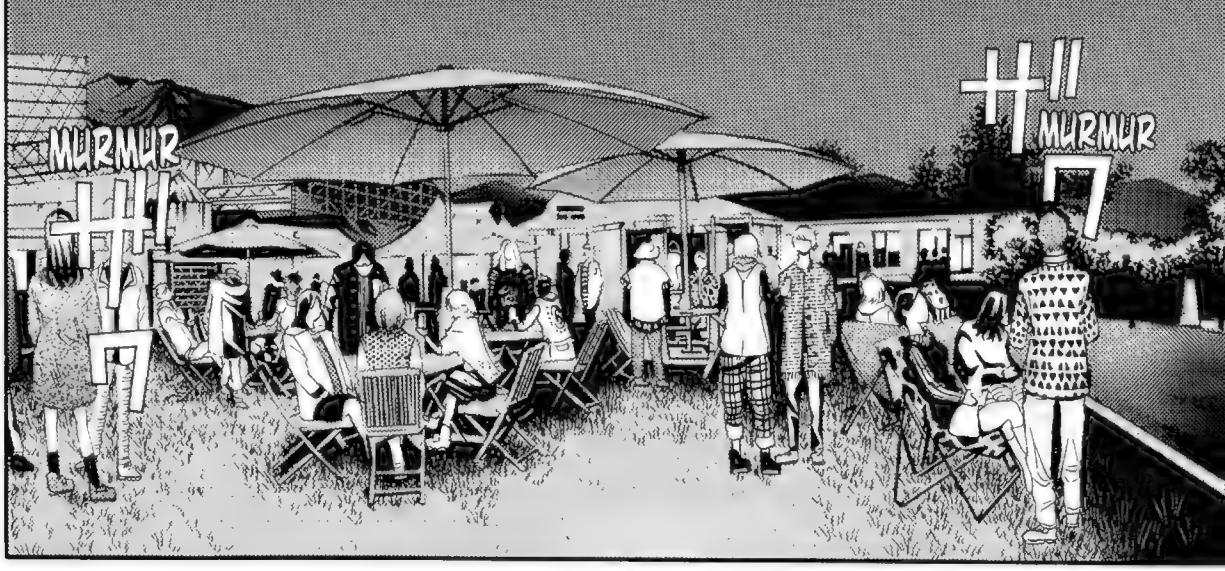
LE BARD...
ICHIGO MOCHIZUKI...
RABBITZ...
...AND AOI AREN'T OUR CONCERN.

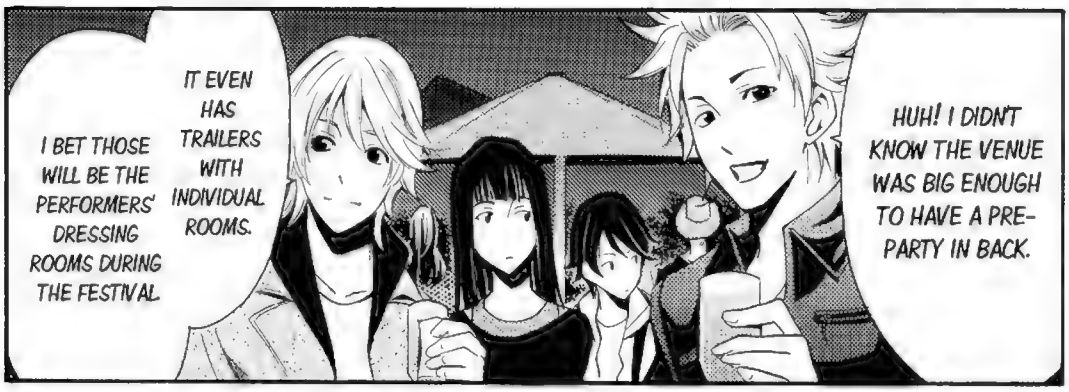
THE BAND WHO'LL BE NUMBER ONE...
...IS US!
ALL RIGHT!
I AGREE.
YEAH.
LET'S MAKE THE PRESI-DENT'S DREAM COME TRUE!!
OH! AND I'LL HELP, TOO!!
LET'S ALL WORK HARD!

THE HEDGEHOGS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR FESTIVAL.
Fuuka
WE CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THIS FESTIVAL...
...ALONG-SIDE PROMISING YOUNG ARTISTS SUCH AS YOUR-SELVES.
OF COURSE, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING A BACK-SEAT TO YOUNG KIDS LIKE YOU JUST YET.
AND THIS MAY BE UNFAIR TO SAY AFTER WE INVITED YOU ALL HERE, BUT...

WE INTEND TO POUND EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU INTO THE GROUND.

94 PRE-PARTY!


#11 MURMUR 7
#11 MURMUR 7


I BET THOSE WILL BE THE PERFORMERS' DRESSING ROOMS DURING THE FESTIVAL
IT EVEN HAS TRAILERS WITH INDIVIDUAL ROOMS.
HUH! I DIDN'T KNOW THE VENUE WAS BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE A PRE-PARTY IN BACK.

THEY ALL HAVE SO MUCH PRESENCE.
WOW. THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN IN MAGAZINES AND ON TV.

...

Y-YOU'RE JUST FINE! KEEP IT TOGETHER!!
I'M JUST... FEELING KINDA OUT OF PLACE.
CAN I GO HOME NOW?
YUU-SAN, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

OH!
YUU-KUN!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE WELL!
DID YOUR RECORDING GO OKAY?
HEY, ISN'T THAT KOYUKI HINASHI?
WHY IS SHE HERE? I THOUGHT SHE RETIRED.
DUNNO-
AND WHO'S THAT NERD SHE'S TALKING TO?
!!
UH-
TAMA-CHAN- AND AOI.
AREN'T YOU GUYS PERFORMING ON THE SECOND DAY?
...
YEAH.
BUT WE CAME EARLY SO WE COULD SEE YOU GUYS PLAY.

MURMUR
WH-WHAT THE?! IS THAT HER BOY-FRIEND?!
WAIT, I RECOGNIZE HIM NOW! HE'S THE GUY FROM THAT TWITTER PICTURE WITH KOYUKI HINASHI!!
SO THEY REALLY ARE DATING?!
CLING
GOOD LUCK TOMORROW! I'LL BE ROOT-ING FOR YOU!!
WHOA --!
TAMA-CHAN!
...
STOMP
OW!
OOPS, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
EVER THE LADIES' MAN, I SEE.
JEALOUS THAT THEY TOOK YUU-KUN FROM YOU?
GET REAL.
HEY! GET AWAY FROM YUU-SAN!
YOU'LL GIVE PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA!
WHY IS THAT A PROB-LEM?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TAMA-CHAN?!

MAYBE I REALLY SHOULD GO HOME.
UGH. THEY'RE DRAWING WAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO ME.
LOOM
LOOM
LOOM
CAN YOU TALK NOW?
MR. HARUNA.
...
JEEZ... I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, YUU!
WHAT DID YOU EVEN DO, HARUNA?
WH-WHAT ARE THEY --? THE MAFIA?

SHELLEY!!

WAS SHE SO INTIMIDATED BY ME THAT SHE RAN OFF?
OH? WHERE'S THAT ONE GIRL?

WELL...
WE SORT OF MET AT WORK...
I DIDN'T MEET HER!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, YUU-KUN?! YOU KNOW SHELLEY HORNET, TOO?!

UH.
I TRIED TO TELL YOU...

MURMUR
HEY! SHELLEY HORNET IS HERE!
SHE'S CUTE!!
AND WHO'S THAT DULL-LOOKING GUY SHE'S TALKING TO?
IT'S THAT ONE BAND, THE FALLEN MOON!
SO THAT'S WHO SHE MEANT WHEN SHE SAID THAT ON TV!
MURMUR
HUH? YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH?!
WHOA!! SHE COMES TO PRE-PARTIES, TOO?!

I'M THE CENTER OF ATTENTION NOW!!
WHOA!!

I WANT...
...TO SAY HI TO "TAMA."

WELL, NEVER MIND.
COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE, YUU.
HUH?
GO WHERE?
...

GO SAY HI TO HER YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE KID!
JUST COME WITH ME!!
WE'VE BATHED TOGETHER, HAVEN'T WE?!
HEY!!
WHO THE HELL IS HE?! WHAT KIND OF CONNEC-TIONS DOES HE HAVE?!
HE JUST SAID HE BATHED WITH SHELLEY!!
FOR REAL?!
RUMBLE
...!!
YOU DO STUFF LIKE THAT DURING WORK HOURS?
A SCANDAL RIGHT BEFORE OUR SHOW AGAIN?
NIKO-KUN. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BATHING?
RUMBLE
HANG ON, WILL YOU?!
JUST COME ON ALREADY, YUU!!
WE SAT IN THE SUN..
..TO WARM UP..
..SINCE IT WAS COLD..
WHAT?!
SHE MEANT SUN-BATH-ING!!
SHE...

DO YOU REMEMBER...
TROT TROT
AH...
UM --!!
!!
WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS OVER HERE?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SHELLEY.
HEY.
!!

THAT WE'D STAND ON THE SAME STAGE SOMEDAY.
I DID PRO-MISE..
YEAH..
...
SHE MUST HAVE WORKED REALLY HARD..
..TO BE ABLE TO KEEP HER PROMISE WITH TAMA.

WHOA!!
QUIT STARING!!
...
I HEARD HIS BAND WORKED WITH A FAMOUS RECORDING ENGINEER, TOO.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH HIS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS? THAT'S JUST INSANE.
FLOOMP
HMPH_
WHO CARES ABOUT HIM?
I'VE HAD IT--!
I'M GOING HOME FOR REAL!!

ICHIGO MOCHI-ZUKI.
OH-
YO.

THAT'S- A GOOD QUESTION.
...
-ANY BETTER YET?
IS YOUR SING-ING-

OH. YEAH.
SO IT SEEMS.
MY BAND'S PERFORMING AT NEARLY THE SAME TIME AS YOURS.
HUH?
WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
YOU KNOW THERE ARE THREE STAGES AT THIS FESTIVAL, RIGHT?

SO IF YOU GUYS DON'T GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT...
...YOU'RE GONNA LOSE YOUR ENTIRE AUDIENCE.

I'M...
...NOT SO SURE.
HUH?
!!

WE DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF LOSING, EITHER!
WELL, WELL.
FOUND YOURSELF SOME CONFIDENCE, I SEE...

HEY, NIKO-KUN.
ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID A MINUTE AGO-
WHY DON'T YOU-
-TELL US ALL THE DETAILS?
I-I TOLD YOU, SHE MEANT SUNBATH-ING!!
AS IF WE BELIEVE THAT!!
FOR REAL?!
YOU WERE IN THE TRACK CLUB?! ME, TOO!!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING, IBUKI-SAN!!
YOU WON AN INTER-NATIONAL PIANO COMPETI-TION?!
YOU'RE REALLY INCRED-IBLE!
IT WAS JUST IN THE JUNIOR DIVISION.
HEY, WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAP
AHA HA HA!! THOSE GUYS ARE HILAR-IOUS!!
WELL, I'M LEAVING. BEING UP LATE IS BAD FOR MY SKIN.

YAMMER
YAMMER
SHEESH.. THEY'RE TAKING THIS WAY TOO EASY.
IT'S FINE. IT'S A FESTIVAL, AFTER ALL.
BESIDES..
ONCE THE FESTIVAL BEGINS, THEY'LL FIND OUT..
..WHY WE REALLY BROUGHT THEM ALL HERE.

I'M SO SORRY, FUUKA-CHAN.
BUT I REALLY NEED TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE SOME GOOD OM-RICE!
I HEARD IT WAS ONE OF NIKO-KUN'S FAVORITE DISHES, SO I'M DYING TO MAKE HIM SOME!
? OM-RICE!

HEY, IT'S NO PROBLEM!
I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING SPECIAL TODAY ANYWAY.
Fuuka
GET READY! MY OM-RICE RECIPE IS SO DELICIOUS, IT'LL KNOCK YUU-KUN'S SOCKS OFF!
YES, TEACH ME, PLEASE!!
SO, WE START OFF BY MAKING CHICKEN RICE...
OH, YOU NEED KET-CHUP, RIGHT?!
AH HA HA! HOLD YOUR HORSES! FIRST WE NEED TO CHOP SOME VEG...
SPLURTZ
WHOOPS!

BOTTLE: KETCHUP

OM-RICE: A RICE OMELET

I'M SORRY, FUUKA-CHAN...
I JUST SQUEEZED IT... I WASN'T THINKING...

NO WORRIES!
IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL!

BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T SQUEEZE IT WHEN YOU'RE AIMING AT A PERSON, OKAY?
OKAY... I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.

SHHH
P
P
SHHH
P

OH... YEAH, I SEE...
SO, ONCE THE ONIONS ARE SEMI-TRANSPARENT, YOU CAN ADD IN THE CHICKEN.
SIIIZZLE
GOOD. NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE KETCHUP.
ON IT!!
SIZZLE
AND DON'T FORGET, NEVER SQUEEZE IT WHEN IT'S POINTED AT ANYONE, OKAY?
GOT IT!
CAN: DICED TOMATOES
OKAY, AND THIS IS THE TRICK.
YOU POUR IN CANNED TOMATOES TOO!
IS THAT RIGHT?
HUH...? HOW DO YOU OPEN IT?
HEH
FIRST YOU PULL UP ON THE TAB...
...THEN YOU PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TAB AND USE LEVERAGE TO CURL UP THE LID...
BLOOSH

I'M REALLY SORRY, FUUKA-CHAN!
I WAS TRYING TO TURN THE CAN SO I COULD CURL UP THE LID AND...
AH HA HA...
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'D MOVE THAT HAND TO OPEN IT, THOUGH...
BUT REALLY, KOYUKI-CHAN, BE CAREFUL WITH THAT STUFF.
I MEAN, THESE SHOWERS ARE STARTING TO DRY OUT MY SKIN.
OKAY... I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.
SHHH
P
P
P
SHHH
P

REALLY? THAT'S HOW YOU GET THEM FLUFFY?
YOU'LL WANT THE EGGS TO BE NICE AND FLUFFY, SO YOU ADD MAYONNAISE AND CREAM...
NEXT COMES THE OMELET PART.
北海道
クリーム42

CARTON: FRESH CREAM FROM HOKKAIDO

CARTON: CREAM

HEY!! THAT WAS TOTALLY ON PURPOSE!!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!

SORRY... YOUR OH-SO-SUPERIOR SMILE ANNOYED ME!

AND THERE WAS THE MAYONNAISE AND CREAM TOO!! WERE YOU TRYING TO HIT ME?!

WELL... THOSE COMEDY ROUTINES ALWAYS COME IN THREES, SO I FIGURED IT WAS REQUIRED.

WHY DID YOU REALLY COME HERE?!

HUH?
A COLD?
YEAH. WITH A NASTY FEVER THAT JUST WON'T GO DOWN. SO AOI'S TAKEN THE DAY OFF.
IS THAT RIGHT?
...
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE OKAY ON HER OWN?
I'M REALLY SORRY, FUUKA-CHAN!! I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO CATCH A COLD!!
ARE YOU OKAY? I'LL MAKE YOU SOME RICE GRUEL!!
NO, THANKS. JUST GO HOME.
BUT...!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE POLITE ...
TRUST ME. THIS ISN'T POLITE-NESS.
WHAT ?!
YOU HEARD ME.

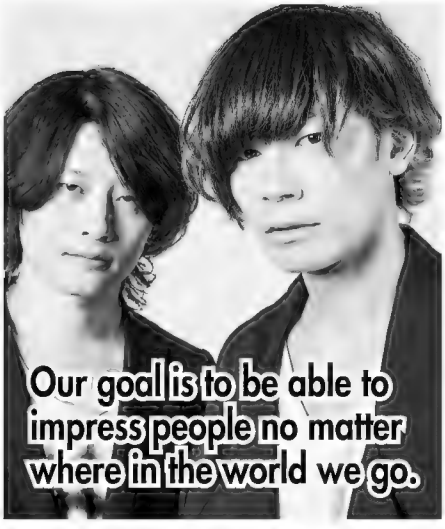
? THE END

We're kicking off the Festival Arc with a special treat!
An Exclusive Interview
With [Alexandros] and KOUJI SEO!
Drums: Satoyasu Shomura
Bass/Chorus: Hiroyuki Isobe
[Alexandros]
After their debut in 2010, this four-piece rock band advanced rapidly. Their 2014 concert at the Budokan was a great success, which catapulted them even higher. Their official website (Japanese) is: https://alexadros.jp
Vocal/Guitar: Yoohei Kawakami
Guitar: Masaki Shirai

Photo by Taro Washio. This interview was first published in Weekly Shonen Magazine, volume 2015, issue 46.

THIS IS WHAT A CREATOR MUST BE

He Saw Them in Concert!



Seo: You know, I actually went to see [Alexandros] during the Sweet Love Shower 2015 show, and I got so pumped up, I ended up jumping up and down!

[Alexandros], All Members: Really?! You came to see us?! Thanks so much!

Seo: It was my first time at a music festival. What do you see as the best parts of a festival like that?

Kawakami: The fair-like atmosphere. It's fun getting food from the stands and camping. And letting loose with your friends. Things like that. Plus, there are live concerts by all kinds of artists, so I think all of that together makes for an incredibly fun experience.

Seo: Do you ever get nervous before a concert? I mean, Yuu-kun in Fuuka gets so nervous, his mind goes completely blank.

Isobe: I don't get nervous. The thing is, I usually take life as it comes, so when I'm on stage, I don't really feel the pressure.

Seo: That's incredible. Yuu-kun could learn a thing or two from you. (laughs)

Kawakami: But I think for someone like Yuu-kun who is usually inside his own head, getting up on stage is a good experience. It lets you say things you normally couldn't, you know? I love it because it's a place where I can get what I'm thinking out there, even if it's just crap.

All Living Under One Roof?!

Seo: I heard that before your debut, all four of you from [Alexandros] lived together in one house. In Fuuka, Yuu-kun's band were ordered to share a home by their management company owner, but why did you guys decide to live together?

Isobe: We all lived under one roof for six years, if you count the time after our debut too. At the time, we were all just doing regular jobs, but we were trying to find a location where we could squeeze in practice time for our debut, and living together seemed like the best way of doing that.

Shirai: It meant we could spend more time together and get more rehearsing in. It did cause plenty of problems between us too, though. Like that scene in Fuuka where Sara-sempai got yelled at for using too much toilet paper. We really did fight about stuff like that! (laughs) But I think that experience of living together did strengthen the bonds between the four of us.

Kawakami: The only thing I regret is that there wasn't a girl like Sara-chan in the group. (laughs)

Seo: Then it was a good idea for Yuu-kun's band to all live together?

Kawakami: Quite possibly, yes. The time before we debuted was very hard on the entire band, but shouldering those hardships together made for very strong bonds between us all. It's like we passed our test of fire together, you know?

Isobe: But even so, it was a big relief when we all moved out of that place. (laughs) I mean, we were four guys in our thirties, so living together was a bit of a strain. (laughs)

Shomura: I was surprised at Yuu-kun's band living together, but the thing that really shocked me was that Yuu-kun and his friends dropped out of high school. Did you envision them doing that right from the very beginning?

Seo: No. I was at a meeting with my editor one week, and the suggestion came up that maybe they should quit school, and we just kind of went with it. (laughs)

[Alexandros], All Members: Whaaat?!

Seo: I'm drawing it, but I don't know myself what's going to happen from week to week. There is a method to my madness, though. You see, when I focus on their life as band members, I don't have enough space left in the manga to show their school life on top of that. That's why I decided to have them quit school.

Achieving a Debut: An Unforgettable Moment!

– So what was it like, the instant you learned your debut was all set?

Kawakami: You know, I was just over the moon! If you asked me what were the two happiest moments of my life, I'd say the moment of our debut and the moment I quit my day job. (laughs)

Isobe: It's not like a debut was our ultimate goal or anything, but still, I'll never forget the moment it was decided.

Seo: So how did you learn about your debut?

Kawakami: We had sent a demo tape to a management company, and they contacted us and said they wanted to see us live. So they came to see one of our sets and took us out for Chinese food after. That was when they told us that they'd like to work with us.

Isobe: We were so hungry for a debut that we would have agreed right then and there, but we didn't want to look desperate, so we told them that we'd think about it and get back to them. (laughs)

Laughter from all members.

Kawakami: I remember how we all let out a big whoop when the people from the management company had finally gone home.

Shirai: How did you feel about your debut, Seo-san?

Seo: My case was a bit of a letdown. (laughs)

Shirai: A letdown?

Seo: One of the editors had brought my story to a new-title meeting at Weekly Shonen Magazine, but it wasn't accepted. They told me that I should offer it to one of their sister magazines, Magazine Special, instead. But the editors there refused it, too. They all said that I should be in a weekly magazine. (laughs) Still, I persisted, saying that I wanted to give it a try anyway, and they finally broke down and gave me a shot.

Laughter from all members.

Once It's Out, It's Done With.

– Is there anything in particular you try to keep in mind as creators?

Kawakami: I'm not sure if this is what you're looking for, but it left a really strong impression on us when a member of our management company told us that, "Once you put a song out into the world, it's over and done with. The next one is most important then. Then the next!" Adopting that attitude really boosted our level of professionalism. I think that's the entire reason we've made it this far in the music industry.

– What about you, Seo-sensei?

Seo: It's much the same for me. I'm a manga artist who sees my job as being 100% in the service industry. I'm always trying to draw what the readers want. It was only when I settled on the fact that I was in a service industry job that I was able to get a continuing series. (laughs)

Shomura: I remember that coming up in Fuuka. That a real pro is someone who gives the audience what they're looking for. When I read that part, it rang true for me. So even though manga and music are completely different fields, I felt a commonality between us as creators.

Seo: There are many things I'd like to say (as a creator), and that means I have to give a lot of thought as to how to get those things across within a marketable product. I think a real pro is someone who manages to actually accomplish that. I'm doing my best to convey that in Fuuka.

Trust Before Friendship.

Kawakami: I think it isn't really about just being friends. There are people who you can be great friends with but can't really groove with, and on the other hand, there are people you simply do not get along with, but when it comes to music, you just click. You need a certain trust when it comes to music. This kind of trust isn't about whether your personalities are compatible, it's on a more fundamental level, I suppose.

Isobe: I remember when the band was being put together and Yoohei (Kawakami) asked me to be a member, he told me, "But if there comes a day when you can't play your bass anymore, you're fired." (laughs) I doubt even the cutthroat foreign firms would put it in such unforgiving terms. (laughs) But I think that was for the best. We were never under the illusion that we would become BFFs. Our relationships were formed with an honest aim toward creating music together. And I think that's one of the reasons we were able to come so far.

Seo: This has been a real learning experience! I think I'll be able to incorporate these insights into my work almost immediately!

– Thank you so much to everyone!

Fuuka 10

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2016 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334072

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Fuuka
SONIC BOOM 20
MURMUR
に
参加しよう!
Green Rubber
Campaign
Red2
WAKE
HEY, DOUBLE CHECK ON WHEN LE BARD STARTS!
WHAT?
I BET WE COULD HIT THEM ALL IF WE TRIED.
WAIT UP!
COME ON, HURRY UP!! IT'S START-ING!!
桐島食
DRINK
¥600
¥500
STEP RIGHT UP TO THE KIRISHIMA KITCHEN!!
SIZZLE
WE'VE GOT GREAT FOOD!!

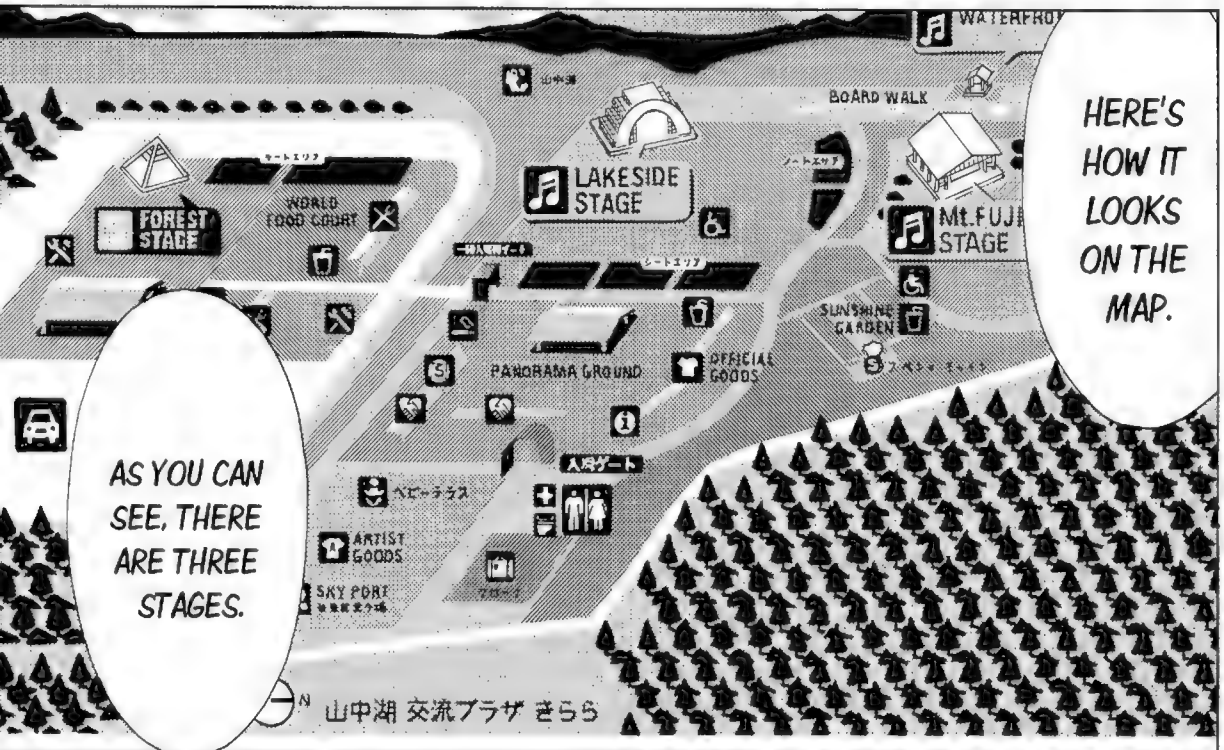
WOW
PRESENTS

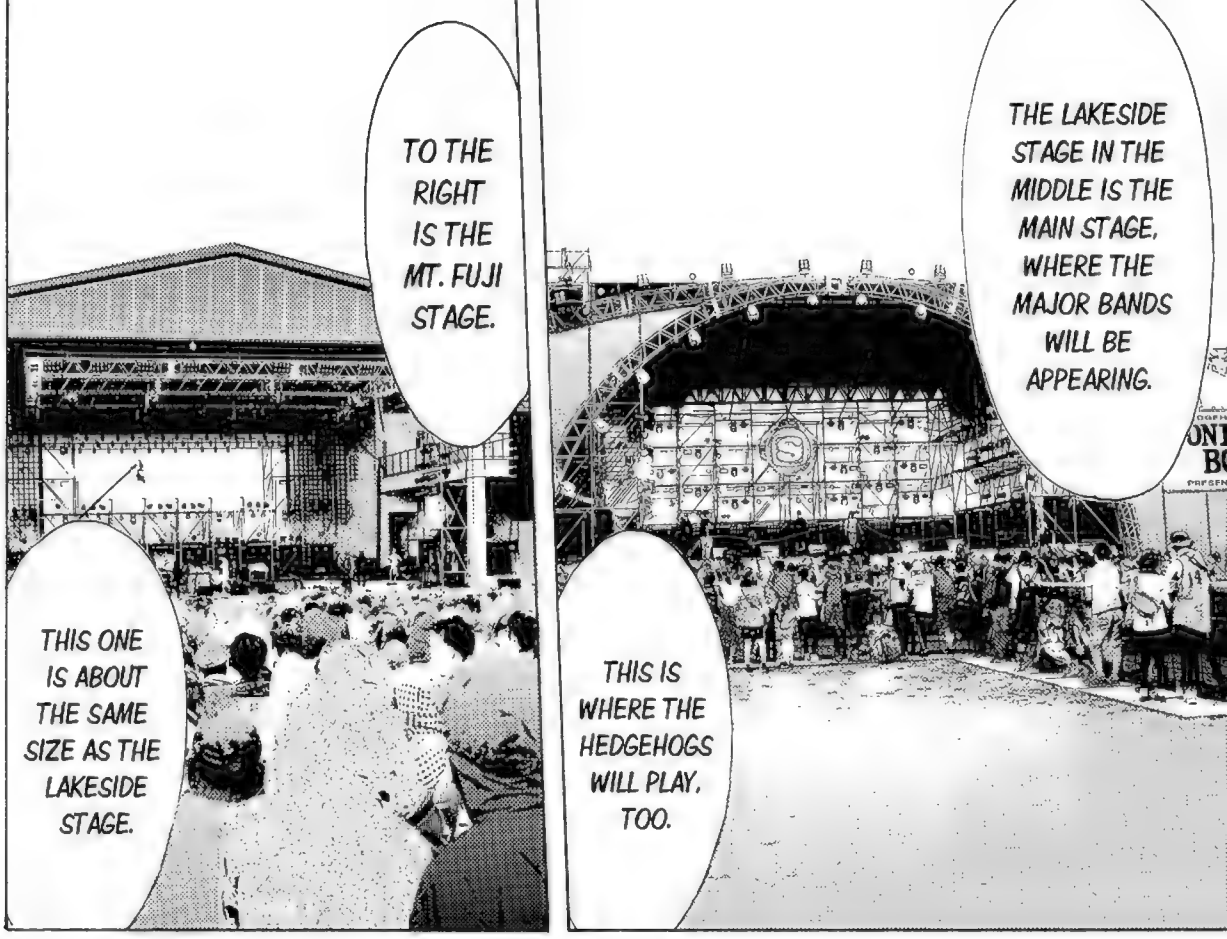
95 OPENING!

I NEVER THOUGHT YUU WOULD PERFORM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
WELL, THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT A FESTIVAL.
WOW, CHECK OUT THE CROWD! AND THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FOOD STALLS. IT REALLY IS LIKE A FESTIVAL.
OF COURSE, WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THOSE ARE COMING TO SEE HIM.
TH-THAT'S INCREDIBLE! GO YUU!!
WOOOOO
I HEARD THEY EXPECT AN ATTENDANCE OF 10,000 OVER THREE DAYS.
I'M SURE HE'S TERRIBLY NERVOUS...
HIS BAND IS UP SOON.
IN ANY CASE, WE NEED TO CHEER HIM ON.

SO...
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.

THERE'LL BE 49 ARTISTS PERFORMING OVER THE THREE DAYS OF THIS FESTIVAL.
SO THE GROUNDS ARE HUGE!


HERE'S HOW IT LOOKS ON THE MAP.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE THREE STAGES.
WATERFRONT
BOARD WALK
LAKESIDE STAGE
FOREST STAGE
WORLD FOOD COURT
Mt.FUJI STAGE
SUNSHINE GARDEN
PANORAMA GROUND
OFFICIAL GOODS
ARTIST GOODS
SKY PORT
N
山中湖 交流プラザ きらら


TO THE RIGHT IS THE MT. FUJI STAGE.
THIS ONE IS ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE LAKESIDE STAGE.
THE LAKESIDE STAGE IN THE MIDDLE IS THE MAIN STAGE, WHERE THE MAJOR BANDS WILL BE APPEARING.
THIS IS WHERE THE HEDGEHOGS WILL PLAY, TOO.

THIS IS BASICALLY WHERE THE NEWER ARTISTS WILL PERFORM... AND, WELL...
AND THE STAGE WE'LL BE APPEARING ON IS THE ONE TO THE LEFT, THE FOREST STAGE.

WE KNEW THAT MUCH FROM THE START.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUGAR-COAT IT FOR US.
COMPARED TO THE OTHER STAGES, IT'S SMALL... ER, COMPACT... AH... VERY QUAINT...

AND THE VERY POPULAR BAND, COLT PYTHON...
...WILL BE PLAYING ON THE NEXT STAGE OVER AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME AS YOU.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE MOST OF YOUR AUDIENCE WILL MOVE OVER TOWARD THEM...

SO IF YOU GUYS DON'T GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT...
...YOU'RE GONNA LOSE YOUR ENTIRE AUDIENCE.

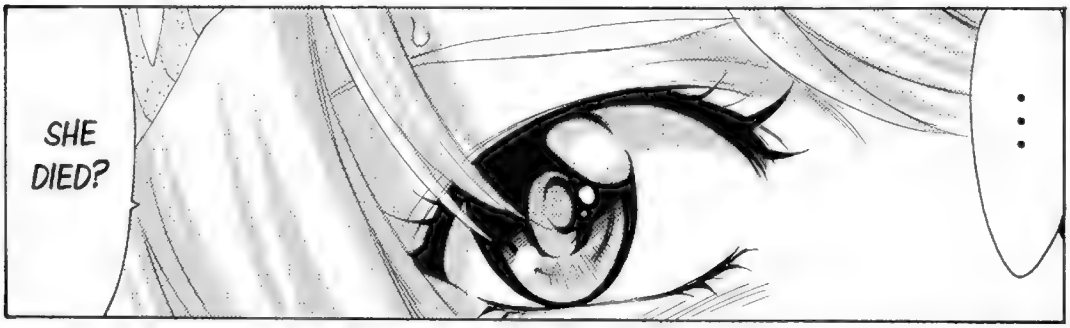
WHA...
...FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT.
IF THAT HAPPENS, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ALL PAY THE TEN MILLION YEN...

...

THE FOUR OF US CAN DO IT...

IT'LL BE FINE.

ACTUALLY, THE GIRL WHO WAS THE VOCALIST, FUUKA AKITSUKI, DIED IN AN ACCIDENT LAST YEAR.
THE BASSIST, HARUNA-KUN, IS DOUBLING AS THE VOCALIST NOW, SO THEY'RE A FOUR-MEMBER BAND.
FOUR?
DOESN'T THE FALLEN MOON HAVE FIVE MEMBERS?

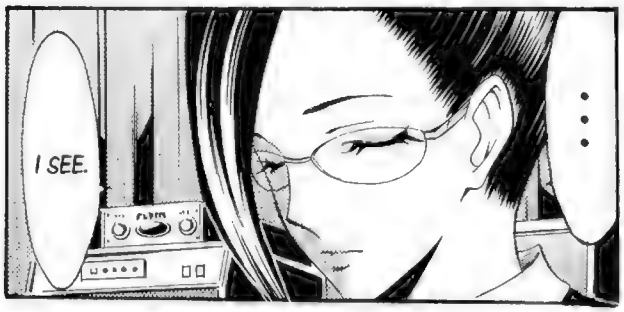

SHE DIED?
...

THEY'RE HERE AT THIS FESTIVAL...
...WITH YUU DOING THE VOCALS...?
HOW CAN THAT BE?
SO EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GONE...

I'M GOING.
GOTTA WATCH THE FALLEN MOON.
DID TAMA CHOOSE HIM?!
GLATTER
YOU COULD AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING TO THEM.
YOU SHOULD COME, TOO!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED YUU-KUN AND THE REST, AFTER ALL.
ALL RIGHT.
GO AHEAD.
THAT'S TRUE.
...

WELL. I'LL GO A LITTLE LATER.

WOW...


I SEE.
...

WE CAN'T HAVE ANY FEWER.
HUH? YOU'RE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THAT?

TUP A TUP A
PRESIDENT!! I THINK THERE ARE CLOSE TO 2,000 PEOPLE OUT THERE!!
ALL THANKS TO SHELLEY HORNET MENTIONING THEM ON TV!!
HUH?

...
OKAY. IT'S TIME FOR THE FALLEN MOON! IF YOU'RE READY, PLEASE!
AH.
OKAY!
WELL...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME.
BIG DEAL.
WE'LL JUST DO AS WE ALWAYS DO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE SHOULD HAVE FUN.
...
YEAH.

ALL THERE IS LEFT...
...IS TO DO OUR BEST AT WHAT WE CAN DO!!
TWO TO
TO

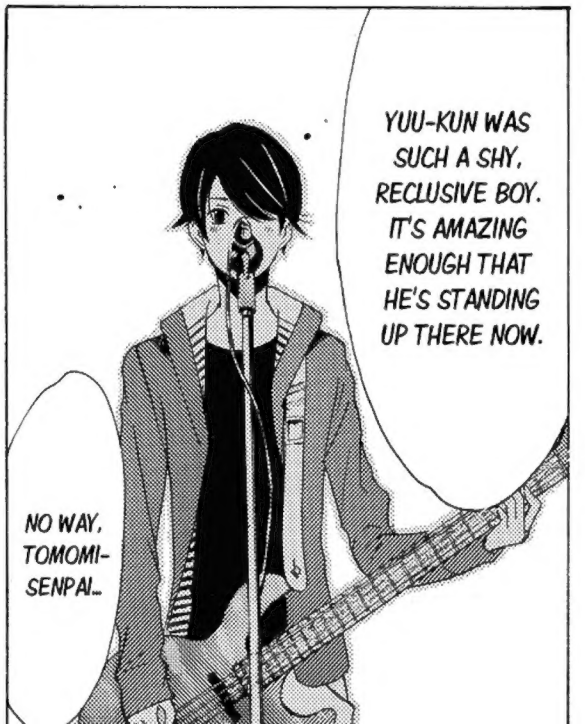
YEAH.
..OH!
THERE THEY ARE, FUUKA-CHAN!!
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT..
..YUU-KUN.
WHAT I..
..CAN DO.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
...

I...
I CAN'T HELP IT...
THAT'S UNUSUAL...
TO SEE YOU NERVOUS.
I'VE WAITED TEN LONG YEARS...
...FOR A DAY LIKE THIS.

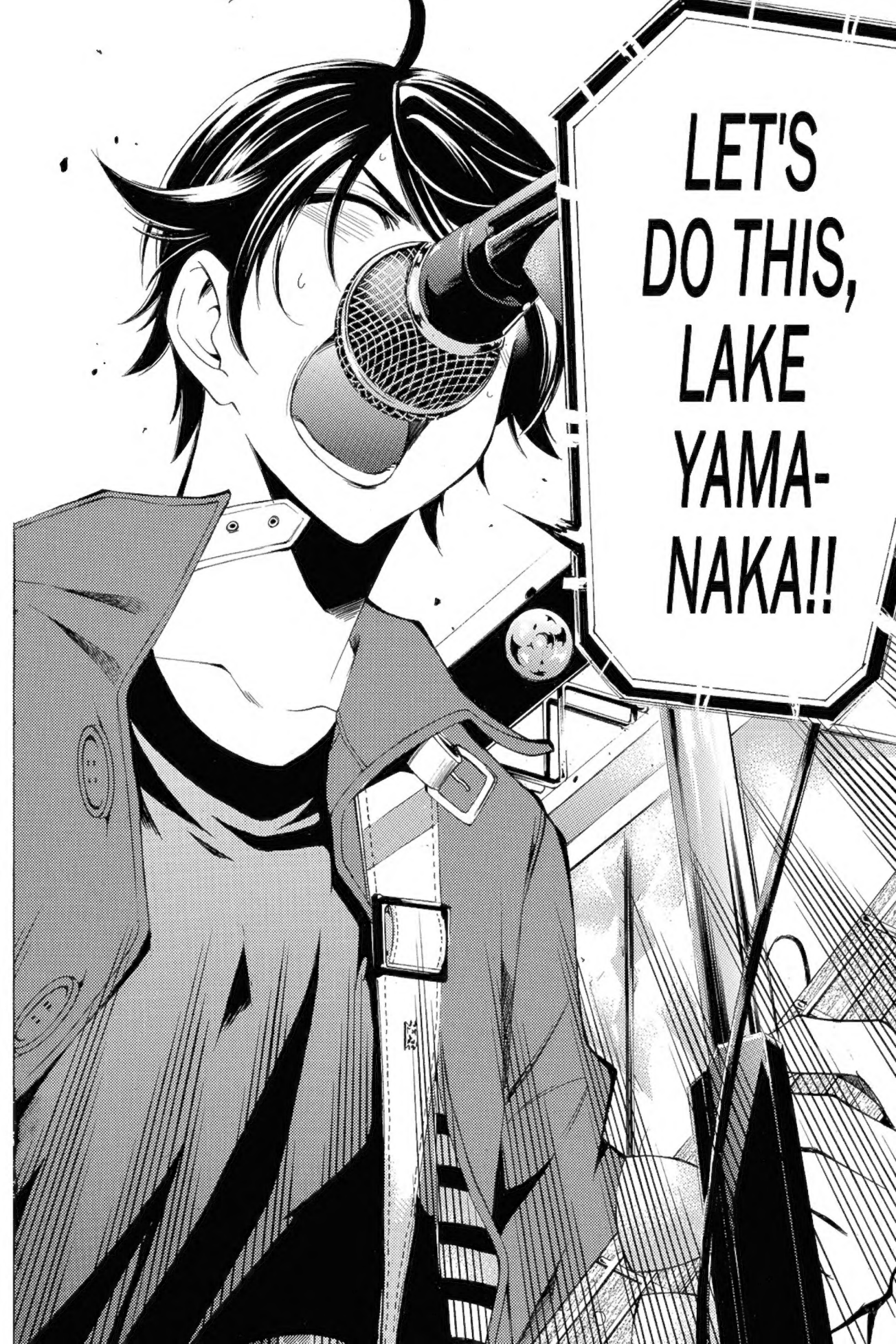
FOR THESE KIDS I'VE PRODUCED, THIS PERFORMANCE...
...IS THEIR FIRST STEP TOWARD TAKING ON THE HEDGEHOGS.

SO... THINK HE'S GONNA OPEN WITH THAT LAME INTRO AGAIN?
HA HA.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? THE POOR KID!

AS A BAND MAN, HE'S GOTTA REALLY LET 'ER RIP SOMETIME.
THAT'S HIS WORST-


YUU-KUN WAS SUCH A SHY, RECLUSIVE BOY. IT'S AMAZING ENOUGH THAT HE'S STANDING UP THERE NOW.
NO WAY, TOMOMI-SENPAI...

L...
LE...
AH...
UM...


LET'S DO THIS, LAKE YAMA-NAKA!!

WHA --!
...
FOR REAL ?
...NICE ONE.

To be continued in Vol. 11